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THE STARS ON THE MUSIC
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CARTER
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SKA WARS!

p49

Go see Less Than Jake, turn into a cartoon character...



■ ISSUE 1581 AUG 15, 2015



HELLO, READERS. Welcome to this special issue of Kerrang!, where we lift the lid on the songs that pulled your favourite rockstars through this thing called life. We think it's an important issue. Without music, life would be awfully dull and horribly quiet, but also, our existences would have no soundtrack. And who wants to live in a silent movie? There'd be nothing to fill the gaps created by your first heartbreak (for me, anything by Weezer), your happiest moment (Nirvana), the time you needed a leg up out of the gloom (The Bronx). Enjoy the issue. And turn it up!

James
Editor

NEWS ON THE COVER:

■ I save the whale with **Architects** (p4)! Plus, **Chris Cornell** goes inside Higher Truth (p8)! Oh, and **Steel Panther** party with **Miley Cyrus** (p9)!



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ON THE COVER: Matt

from **Bullet For My Valentine** tells us how their new album saved the band's life (p22), while **Black Veil Brides**, **All Time Low** and loads more poke through their own iPods (p16). **Disturbed** announce they're ba-a-a-ack (p38), and we meet black metal's coolest woman, Amalie Bruun of **Myrkur** (p42).

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■ Warped mayhem with **BVB**, **PVRIS**, **Pierce The Veil** and more (p30).

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SEPTEMBER MOURNING

p14

Meet rock's hottest new murder doll...

COVER PHOTOS: ANDREW LIPOVSKY, PAUL HARRIES, DAVE WILLIS. CONTENTS PHOTO: CHRIS CASEY



Sam Carter:
standing against the
killing of whales

SEA SHEPHERD
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

K! WHALE LOTTA LOVE!

K! JOIN ARCHITECTS FRONTMAN SAM CARTER AS HE FIGHTS AGAINST THE KILLING OF WHALES AND OPENS UP ON THE BAND'S NEW MUSIC...

"IF SOMEONE SLAUGHTERED 250 DOGS, THERE'D BE UPROAR!"

SAM CARTER

THE BIG STORY
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER



ARCHITECTS FRONTMAN and Sea Shepherd spokesman Sam Carter is once again leading the charge against the abuse of the world's

oceans. K! caught up with the singer as he joined 200 fellow activists to protest outside the Royal Danish Embassy in London on July 31, speaking out against the killing of 250 pilot whales in the Danish-ruled Faroe Islands. The event, which is part of an annual culling of animals by the island's natives, was the focus of Sam's impassioned speech decrying the murder of the intelligent sea creatures as he and his band pledged to continue to fight for animal rights. K! grabbed the singer after the demonstration to talk about his role in the Sea Shepherd movement – and how these issues are continuing to influence new Architects music...

HI, SAM! FIRSTLY, CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO US EXACTLY WHAT THIS PROTEST IS ALL ABOUT?

"In the Faroe Islands there's a practice, which they call their tradition, where they find migrating pilot whales who are there to feed on local squid and surround them with boats and drive them towards the shore. They bang the sides of their boats with these hooks and scare them into beaching themselves. There's about 1,000 people on the beach who stick the hooks through the blowholes of the whales and then slice them down the back of the neck to kill them. It's an incredibly violent, bloody process and happens every summer."

EARLIER WHEN YOU ADDRESSED THE PROTEST, YOU TALKED A LOT ABOUT PEOPLE LACKING IN COMPASSION FOR WILDLIFE...

"To be honest, my simple view with these incidents is that there are a lot of 'traditions' which have stopped – things like racism and cannibalism spring to mind! Maybe 50 years ago they were really remote and they did need to kill whales for food and other resources, but they have supermarkets full of food now. I see it just as bloodlust rather than any genuine need. They even have children there on the beaches when all these whales are being killed, that's no way to bring up a kid, in my view. Put it this way, if someone went out and slaughtered 250 dogs like this, there would be uproar!"

WE NOTICED A FEW PEOPLE THERE TODAY IN ARCHITECTS T-SHIRTS – IS THAT REWARDING FOR YOU?

"Yeah, there were a couple of lads who had come down from Northampton today for this, which I think is the coolest thing ever. But talking about

these issues is a constant thing for us now – I love the fact that Sea Shepherd is probably the second thing that people think of when they think of our band now. We stand for something and even though I'm maybe the most vocal about it, I know the other guys are very passionate about it, too. I like that we go against the stereotype in that way."

WERE YOU NERVOUS BEFORE YOU SPOKE TODAY?

"Yes! But when I turned up and was worriedly hanging out on the edge of the protest, seeing people in our shirts really inspired me. It's so sick to be able to see the things we talk about onstage actually in action and actually making a difference. I know there are lots of people who listen to our band who don't care about any of this stuff – but if just a few people come from our shows to something like today, then I feel like we're doing our job. Really, though, it's the people who are out there risking their lives volunteering on the Sea Shepherd boats who are my heroes."

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED WITH SEA SHEPHERD, WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST AS THE FIRST STEPS?

"The first thing I'd say is get on the website, Seashepherd.org. From there, there's lots of stuff that's quite self-explanatory: petitions and similar things. After that, there's lots of Facebook groups for events like today's which I'd really encourage people





THE BIG STORY↓



Raising awareness
by raising a whale

"PROTESTS LIKE THIS INSPIRE OUR MUSIC!"

SAM CARTER



to get involved in if they can. We really can make a difference if we make our voices heard – we don't have to stand for this."

ON TO MUSICAL MATTERS... WE UNDERSTAND ARCHITECTS ARE WORKING ON SOME NEW MATERIAL – HOW'S IT SHAPING UP?

"We've started demoing and, like, much as it's weird to be so gushing about your friend, Tom [Searle, guitar] is a genius, a total genius. I love *Lost Forever* but I feel like this is shaping up to be three times the album that was. He sends me demos, I'll go to his and it just happens, y'know – it's crazy how smooth and easy and fun it is. We're all on the same page and know exactly where we want to go with this album – no crazy experimenting, no trying to find ourselves, just going in hard."

LOST FOREVER... FELT LIKE A VERY ANGRY RECORD – WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR INSPIRATIONS WILL BE FOR THE NEW ALBUM?

"It's early doors and it's still being discussed, but I think it's going to be a very personal record. Similar fights as before but addressed differently. Things like today's protest are a huge inspiration. Everyone will be able to take something from it, though, I'm sure."

YOU SEEM VERY CONFIDENT THIS TIME AROUND...

"Yeah, we are, and that's weird for us 'cause we were all very nervous before the last record. I think we still had something to prove back then, and now we've proved it. Now we want to prove it again to an even greater degree. You might think you know Architects, but we're going to make everyone go, 'Holy shit this is a really great band!'"

For more information see
Seashepherd.org



Protesters united



Sam's got some-
fin to shout about

SEARCHING FOR A HIGHER TRUTH

SOUNDGARDEN'S CHRIS CORNELL TAKES K! INSIDE HIS NEW SOLO ALBUM...

→ CHRIS CORNELL isn't exactly unfamiliar with asking big questions about the Superunknown aspects of life, but now he's delivering some answers, too. Speaking to Kerrang!, he explains that the title of his upcoming fourth solo album, *Higher Truth*, was inspired by mankind's pursuit for meaning. And all the pros and cons it entails.

"From the mid-'60s when I was born – through all of the cultural shifts we've had – all the way until now, everyone's trying to figure it all out," explains Chris. "Where does that need come from to have a higher power? [*Higher Truth*] concepts start with that notion of 'there's something else', but also immediately included is quite a bit of subjugation – they can be so extreme and ridiculous. It's a good

thing, it sucks – both at the same time."

If this is set to be Chris' most philosophical release to date, then, it's partly been prompted by his other job: being a dad. Lately he's got a new perspective on, well, people.

"Now I've started having children, I was thinking about it all the time," reveals Chris. "I think we start out just fine; we start out very connected with the wonder and amazement and miracle of the fucking world. But we get corrupted by a lot of insecurities and self-consciousness and the pressure of surviving."

As if all those metaphysical questions weren't enough for Chris to contend with, *Higher Truth* is also the first all-acoustic studio album he's ever recorded. It has, he acknowledges, put a bit more

pressure on him than usual, lyrically.

"More than any other I've written, this album had to have more storytelling," explains Chris. "When you don't have a lot of other bells and whistles drawing attention, you have to get drawn into what the singer is singing about. I spent a lot more time concentrating on that, every turn of every phrase had to mean something."

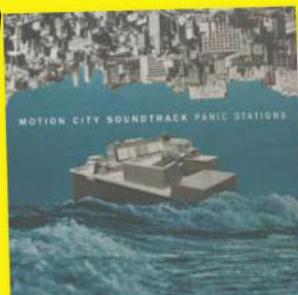
Higher Truth drops on September 18, but in the meantime you can head over to Kerrang.com and check out its brilliant lead single, *Nearly Forgot My Broken Heart*.

→ Hear the new single at Kerrang.com

WORDS: GEORGE GARNER

THEY
SAID
WHAT?

"LISTENING TO KING CRIMSON AND LOOKING FOR THE MOON!"
GERARD WAY



MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK: NEW ALBUM

Motion City Soundtrack have revealed that their sixth studio album will be titled *Panic Stations* and is due for release on September 18 via Epitaph. Hear *Lose Control*, the first track to be taken from the record, on Kerrang.com now.

UNDERØATH TO REFORM?

Underøath have revealed a countdown on their website beneath the message 'Rebirth is coming'. The update seems to allude that the band are reforming, having split up in 2013. The timer is set to finish August 25 and a reversed clip on the band's Facebook features the lyric 'Drowning in my sleep' from 2004's *It's A Dangerous Business Walking Out Your Front Door*. Mysterious business!

THEY
SAID
WHAT?

"I'M EXCITED FOR DEADPOOL, SUICIDE SQUAD, BATMAN V SUPERMAN!"
AUSTIN CARLILE,
OF MICE & MEN

DAVE GROHL – A NAMELESS GHOUL?!

We know that Foo Fighters' frontman, **Dave Grohl**, produced **Ghost**'s 2013 EP **If You Have Ghost** – but could Davey G be one of the band's hooded members, the Nameless Ghoul? In a recent interview with Rolling Stone, one of the Ghouls commented, "[Dave] has played Ghost material in a ghoul suit. And he might or might not have [performed onstage], and he might or might not in the future." Just when we thought Ghost couldn't get any more enigmatic, eh?



COREY AND SLASH "DID 10 SONGS"

Slipknot and Stone Sour frontman **Corey Taylor** has revealed that he recorded "nine or 10 tracks" with **Slash** when the singer tried out to replace **Scott Weiland** in **Velvet Revolver**. "There was a handful [of tracks] that we wrote and then there was a handful that I kind of rearranged a little bit based on music that they already had," the singer told **Loudwire**. "There were, like, three songs that we wrote together, which were actually pretty sweet. And then the rest of it was me writing to music that they already had that I thought was pretty cool." Corey concluded that "the world will probably never hear 'em". Ah, c'mon, man!

BUMBLEFOOT LEAVES GN'R

Last week, guitarist **DJ Ashba** quit **Guns N' Roses**. This week it seems as if guitarist **Bumblefoot** is out, too. The axeman stated he was not going to elaborate on the issue, adding, "I think there's enough clues out there for you to figure out what I'm up to now."

FALL OUT BOY AND MORE FOR ROCK BAND 4

Rock Band 4 has announced that **Fall Out Boy**, **System Of A Down**, **Disturbed** and **Halestorm** will join the already announced **Foo Fighters**, **Paramore** and **Avenged Sevenfold**. The game is due for release on October 6 for Xbox One and PS4.

SLIPKNOT BASSIST OUT OF HOSPITAL

Slipknot bassist **Alex 'Vman' Venturella** was released from hospital last week following an onstage medical emergency in Connecticut, which saw the bassist rushed to a nearby hospital. The band announced, "We are relieved to let everyone know that Alex is well on the road to recovery," continuing, "he was found to be suffering from severe dehydration. After recuperating overnight, he has now been discharged from hospital and is on his way back to his Slipknot family." Just goes to show, you should always stay hydrated, kids.

STEEL PANTHER VS MILEY CYRUS

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ROCK'S FUNNIEST BAND AND POP'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL STARLET COLLIDE?!

The iconic House Of Blues in West Hollywood got an explosive sendoff thanks to Steel Panther as it closed its doors for the final time to make way for a hotel and shopping complex.

The outspoken glam rockers were joined by a host of guests including Miley Cyrus and her dad Billy Ray, as well as legendary pornstar Ron Jeremy, who briefly played harmonica with the band onstage.

It was Miley who stole the show, though, as she was pressured onto the

stage by frontman Michael Starr.

"You gotta fuckin' sing the chorus with us!" the singer yelled at Miley before launching into a cover of Def Leppard's **Pour Some Sugar On Me**.

The controversial popstar proceeded to grind up against bassist Lexxi Foxx, pouting into his hand-held mirror. Later in the song she strutted across the stage wearing Michael's sunglasses while thrusting his bandana between her legs and sticking her tongue out.

Just when we thought Steel Panther couldn't get any ruder...



14 UNHEARD NIRVANA DEMOS LEAK ONLINE

Last week saw 14 never-before-heard **Nirvana** demos surface online. Among the tracks was a version of **Heart-Shaped Box** featuring a longer guitar solo, a new mix of **Verse Chorus Verse**, two new versions of **Old Age** and original demos of **I Hate Myself And Want To Die** and **Scentless Apprentice**. Four or more of the tracks are believed to have been recorded at Sound City Studios during Nirvana's **Nevermind** sessions in 1991. K! suspect that the tracks may feature on the companion album to the documentary **Kurt Cobain: Montage Of Heck**.

The tracks were removed due to a copyright claim by the band's label, Universal Music.

THEY
SAID
WHAT?

"I'M SO INTO FRANK CARTER'S NEW STUFF!"
JENNA McDougall,
TONIGHT ALIVE



NEWS

K!ONFIDENTIAL
ROCK GOSSIP AND GIBBERISH

Black Me Out(side)

CUPS OF COFFEE MAKE YOU STRONG!

PHOTOS: JAMES MCMAHON, RYAN COOPER

So, there we were, having a quiet cuppa in a coffee shop when **Against Me!**'s **Laura Jane Grace** shows up and starts a bloody riot! The frontwoman dropped

into Clapton's Lion Coffee + Records on August 2 for a surprise, intimate set. Unfortunately, only half the crowd could actually fit in the shop – so Laura took the show to the street

outside. Playing for over an hour, the singer tore through acoustic renditions of *Teenage Anarchist*, *Black Me Out* and *True Trans Soul Rebel*. See a video of the show on Kerrang.com now!



THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

Like comics? Love **Metallica**? Well, you're in for a treat: The band are launching their own comic called *Orbit: Metallica*, which details the formation of the band over 28 pages. Cover illustrator David Frizell, known for his work with **Avenged Sevenfold**, enthused, "It's Metallica! What rock artist wouldn't jump at the chance to draw them?!"



Left: George W. Bush
Right: Gene's bush

CRAZY CRAZY NIGHTS!

Holy crap! Imagine being at a party when the unholy alliance of **Kiss' Gene Simmons** and former President of the United States **George W. Bush** show up. Talk about a gruesome twosome. The bassist met Bush Jr. while at a charity bash for the Starkey Hearing Foundation. Also in attendance at the party were former, former President **Bill Clinton** and pop songstress **Katy Perry**. Sadly we couldn't attend as we were washing our hair:

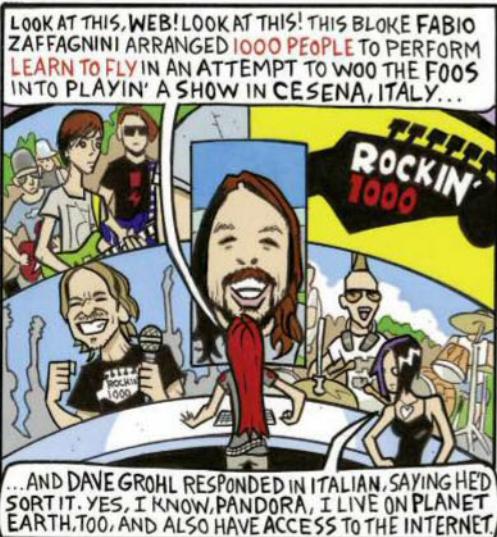
AX & SPREADTED HEADBANGER

This week we saw two absurd celebrity/rockstar mash-ups happen online. First up, **Ron Howard** (director of such films as *The Da Vinci Code*) retweeted a message about looking forward to **Don Broco**'s new album, *Automatic*. Then, just when we thought it couldn't get any weirder, **Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson** messaged some words of encouragement about exercise to **Bury Tomorrow's Dani Winter-Bates**.

Meanwhile, in the real world, **Weezer's Rivers Cuomo** played a show with his eight-year-old daughter and three-year-old son, and **Frank Iero** played live with his three young kids! D'aww!



PANDORA BY RAY ZELL RayZell.com





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NEW RELENTLESS MANGO ULTRA
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THE OFFICIAL **KERRANG!**

ROCK CHART

THE CHART HAS BEEN SHAKEN UP THIS WEEK, WITH NEW ENTRIES FROM **BRING ME THE HORIZON**, **PVRIS** AND **WE CAME AS ROMANS**! LET THE BATTLE COMMENCE...



ROB DAMIANI, **DON BROCO**

WHAT INSPIRED THE LYRICAL CONTENT OF SUPERLOVE?

"Last summer we went out to Spain to write a new song, and we ended up getting drunk every day. We had a great time, but by the end of the trip it looked as though we'd return to the UK empty-handed. The daunting prospect of a failed writing trip scared us, and we bashed Superlove out in the last few days."

HOW DID THE TRACK'S VIDEO COME ABOUT?

“We wanted to shoot something off-the-wall and crazy to represent the song... A mad dinner party suited that!”

IS SUPERLOVE A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF AUTOMATIC?

“Definitely. It brings in a lot of the elements that make up the album, condensed into a three-minute song!”



GUSTAV WOOD, **YOUNG GUNS**

WAS IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE RISING UP THE ALBUM OPENER?

“Yes! We wanted to start it off with a bang, and thought the riff that the song begins with was a cool way to do that.”

IS THE TRACK A FUN ONE TO PLAY LIVE?

“It’s one of my favourites – it has a stomp and a

groove the whole way through, and people always seem to connect with that live."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE LYRIC FROM THE SONG?

“We practice dark arts and open casket love’. It reminds me of Davey Havok in an odd way!”

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 12:30pm with Dan Hudson, and also on K! TV Thursdays at 4pm. Tune in and listen up!

KERRANG! TV

KERRANG! RADIO



KERRANG! + READING UNI = ALL THE BACKSTAGE NEWS FROM THIS SUMMER'S HOTTEST FESTIVAL

FOR MOST PEOPLE, Reading is best known for its killer festival. But, just up the road from the site at Richfield Avenue is the University of Reading. There, rock, metal and mud are celebrated not just for one weekend in August, but all year round (in the geography, chemistry and soil science classes). Ranked in the top one per cent of universities worldwide, Reading Uni is home to 17,000 super-talented students studying everything from architecture to zoology! And for those interested in music and media? It boasts an award winning school of Film, Theatre and TV offering creative talent of the future a chance to get some real-life experience.

And that's why Kerrang! and Reading & Leeds organisers Festival Republic have teamed up with the University of Reading to bring the pick of their writers, bloggers and vloggers to Richfield Avenue over the bank holiday weekend (August 28 – 30). Those stars of the future will be trudging through mud and knocking on dressing room doors to bring you behind-the-scenes coverage, performances and the full festival experience straight to your tablet or mobile! We're recruiting talent now, so keep updated on the budding journo's progress at Kerrang.com/readingbackstage or follow #ReadingBackstage. Register for a University of Reading open day (October 3 & 17) at Reading.ac.uk and it could be you interrogating Panic! At The Disco and All Time Low one day.



"This many tickets to Reading, please!"

NOT HEADING TO READING?

THEN WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?! HERE'S THREE REASONS TO CHANGE YOUR MIND...

1. THE LINE-UP'S KILLER

Metallica, Bring Me The Horizon, New Found Glory, Limp Bizkit, Pierce The Veil, Neck Deep – that's six reasons right there. Just go look at the iconic bright yellow poster for about a hundred more.

2. READING RULES

Reading (the town) is a wonderful place to hang out. There's the vibrant university campus, tons of awesome

student clubs and not one, but two Nando's! And did we mention it's just 25 minutes out of London?

3. IT'S THE BANK HOLIDAY

Your friends are either gonna be working for time-and-a-half, or going to Reading themselves. So, do you really want to sit indoors and do another two seasons of *Orange Is The New Black* when you could be rocking out in the sunshine? No, we thought not!





FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S **BREAKING BANDS** ↓

SEPTEMBER MOURNING

MEET THE MYSTERIOUS LADY GIVING NEW GRAVE AN ELECTRO INJECTION



WHO'S THIS?! SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE SHOULD BE ON A PLAYING CARD...

That's September, frontlady of theatrical electro-rockers September Mourning.

Long story short: the character of SM was once a human girl, her soul taken by a Reaper named Riven. He fell in love with her, and couldn't bare to take her soul, so instead kept her alive for all eternity, sacrificed his power as a Reaper and she became the first human/Reaper hybrid. She now gives human souls a second chance at life, toying with fate's plans for the living.

PHEW! WE'RE JUST ABOUT KEEPING UP. SO, WHERE CAN HEAR THIS STORY IN AUDIO FORM?

Kerrang.com, where you'll find a free download of Children Of Fate. While you listen, let us tell you more about September herself... the name came after she lost a close friend in the autumnal month, right before the project started. And as for her getting into music, that happened after a bad accident ruined her dreams of being a ballerina (which she left home to pursue aged 12), leading her to find an alternative creative outlet. And the inspiration by the darkness? "When I was little, I was surrounded by a lot of death," says the singer. "I became obsessed with the concept of death. Death was also something that frightened me, to the point where I created an entire persona that can defy it... September Mourning."

THAT'S COOL, NOW EXPLAIN THE OUTFIT!

Inspired by everything from Japanese Geishas to Grecian/Roman armour, September started out doing her wardrobe DIY. "The corset was four layers of muslin sewn together and it took me weeks to do. Unfortunately, muslin doesn't breathe well, and after the first tour I had mould growing on the inside back part which I couldn't get rid of... now my costume is [professionally] made, I don't worry about getting mould spores growing on my back any more (laughs)!"

WHAT DOES HER MOULD-FREE FUTURE HOLD?

There's a new EP (Volume I), comic book (A Murder Of Reapers) and tons of touring. "It's the beginning for us," says September. "Through this story I'd like to show the world that each person is capable of becoming anything they set their minds to... that the only limitations we have are the ones we impose on ourselves."

WORDS: JENNIFER WALKER



To hear them, get yourself over to **Kerrang.com**



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR FANS OF:

Arch Enemy, Marilyn Manson, Nine Inch Nails

HEAR: Children Of Fate, free at Kerrang.com.

CHECK OUT: The video for the first chapter of their story, Before The Fall.

MORE INFO:

Facebook.com/septembermourning

DON'T MISS:

September Mourning and more killer new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

"I BECAME OBSESSED WITH DEATH!"

K!OMMUNITY

IT'S YOUR PAGE, YOUR LIFE!



PARTYTECTS

"Celebrated my birthday in Brighton, bumped into Architects! Best. Birthday. Surprise. EVER!" says **@AlerionEpisode**. Best we've ever had was a weird clown turn up. And he stood on our cake. You win.



THIS IS A COOL (PHOTO)

"We chatted about his love of The Beatles and the UK!" says **@AliWilliams24** hanging with Dave 'a broken leg don't phase me' Grohl.



THE ECSTATIC AGE

"Met the Misfits in Bristol. Best night of my life!" says **@Birt1993** tells us. It's the one and only Jerry, urm, Only! We tried out the devlock here in the office, but we couldn't see what we were typing. So impractical!



WINNER!

SUPERBROS

"Here I am with the DB boys in my fav record store..." says **@guynamedfawkes**. We hope they didn't damage any records doing The Walk in there. Anywho... now you'll be able to hang with them at London's O2 Academy Brixton, and do a top-secret activity with them. Lovely smiles those boys have got, eh? Almost like they're hypnotised... DON BROCO ARE THE BEST BAND EVER!



STRAYS IN BANDCHESTER

"Bumped into SVS on set filming their music video for The Strays in a Manchester back alley!" says a very lucky **@BekahLovesBroco**. Better get them down to the band rescue home. We literally just dropped the FVK guys down there, since we found them wandering around Oxford Street without their carers.



TALK TO FRANK

"@frankturner and myself before his New Slang show for the release of his new album!" says, with a huge smile on her face, **@jennasmcdougall**. Seems he's been listening to his new album Positive Songs For Negative People, for sure! Looks happy as Larry!



AMERICANO BEAUTY/AMERICANO PSYCHO

"I drew Patrick Stump from Fall Out Boy today!" says **@magic_katie**. Katie, we like our tea with milk and two sugar-we're-goin-downs, please.

→ **NEXT WEEK** ←

WIN!

PULP

£250 TO SPEND ON BAND MERCH!

Bumped into any rockstars at a Nando's? Maybe you rode a rollercoaster with Billy Corgan? Whatever you wanna shout about, if you've got a photo to prove it and wanna share it, all you need to do is tweet or Instagram using #Kommunity. The best will receive £250 to spend on band merch over at **PULP**. Say: thanks, PULP! Good. Wanna see what you can spend your hard-earned winnings on if you're the most impressive next week? Well then head to **Thisispulp.co.uk** and start your wishlist!

THE SONGS THAT SAVED YOUR



SOME SONGS MAKE YOU SING. SOME MAKE YOU MOSH. BUT, AS **ANDY BIERACK** AND OTHERS ARE ABOUT TO EXPLAIN HERE, SOMETIMES THEY CAN ALSO CHANGE YOU FOREVER...

ANDY BIERACK BLACK VEIL BRIDES

HOW DID MR BVB FIRST FALL IN LOVE WITH ROCK? WITH A KISS...

The first album I bought on cassette was 'Kiss' [1992 album] *Revenge*, although I got it because I wanted to hear a specific track on it, *Unholy*, which is one of my favourite songs of all time. I was five or six years old, and I used to do chores around my grandparents' house, and my grandpa would always give me \$5 or something – so I saved that money up. There was a local record store right by our house, and the woman who worked in there took a liking to me because I was this weird, precocious kid who would go in there with his dad.

And it just so happened that she had that cassette...

"One of the first real memories I have is that I found my dad's old box of Kiss trading cards from the '70s. At that age, their aesthetic was something I was instantly into. I loved superheroes and pro wrestlers, so I had an immediate attachment to the way they looked and couldn't wait to hear what they sounded like. At that age, lyrical content didn't really resonate with me. As an adult, and as someone who writes songs, I now have a huge interest in the lyrical content. Musically, though, even then it had a vibe to it that was kind of intangible, and for whatever reason, that song really struck me. I wasn't looking for music to reflect my life; I was looking for music to take me somewhere. I'd come home from school and would sing it in front of my mirror every day!"

"I was talking to our tour manager about this the other day. I'm starting to reach the age where I'm finding new bands less exciting, and am now going back and re-listening to things from my adolescence. I think I've turned a corner in my life where I'm more interested in rediscovering music that maybe I've lost touch with over the years."

"We ended up covering *Unholy* on our covers EP [Rebels, 2011] a few years ago, so it kind of went

beat 98 Bpm | 117 63 | high normal low | heart 85 | ECG

THE MIXTAPE THAT SAVED MY LIFE!

ANDY SHARES HIS MIX OF FIVE SLABS OF LIFE-CHANGING TUNEAGE



WHEN ANGELS SING

SOCIAL DISTORTION

"When I was about 15 or 16, I started driving, and this was the only cassette that I had in my car. It's the perfect driving record. When you first have your license, driving is very exciting. I would drive out into the country and go as fast as I could in my little shitty car while listening to that record. I therefore associate it with freedom."

FIND IT: *White Light, White Heat, White Trash* (1996)



THE LOVE SONG

MARILYN MANSON

"I was never a huge Manson fan growing up, but some friends of mine convinced me to go and see him when I was in high school. The show ended up being one of the best I've seen in my whole life, so I went out and bought all of his records. It therefore reminds me of finding something new that I didn't know I'd like."

FIND IT: *Holy Wood (In the Shadow of the Valley of Death)* (2000)



THE MIDDLE

JIMMY EAT WORLD

"It's indicative of a time when a lot of the U.S. was very scared of what was going to happen. The record that the song is on, Bleed American, came out right after 9/11, so there was a lot of fear around. I remember The Middle being this fun, exciting song that sounded hopeful at a difficult time."

FIND IT: *Bleed American* (2001)



ESTRANGED

GUNS N' ROSES

"It's a really good indicator, I think, of where Axl wanted to go with the band. From this point into Chinese Democracy, Axl was going into this kind of musical theatre style. As ridiculous as the song is, it's also incredibly impressive."

FIND IT: *Use Your Illusion II* (1991)



THIS COULD BE LOVE

ALKALINE TRIO

"It was the first song I ever heard by them. You know how it's hard to describe how you feel when you fall in love with somebody? I felt like that. I listened to that song and I knew Alkaline Trio would be my favourite band of all time."

FIND IT: *Good Mourning* (2003)

"MUSIC IS MORE THAN THE NOTES COMING OUT OF YOUR SPEAKER. IT'S ABOUT EMOTIONS"

• ANDY BIERSACK •

full circle – and last time I went to my parents' house, I found that Kiss cassette! However, when I tried to put it into a tape deck, it had become warped over the years. It was so disappointing! I have that song in every format but the excitement I had for listening to the very first copy of it that I ever had is an indicator that music is more than just the notes that are coming out of the speaker – it's the feeling and the emotion that you associate with it.

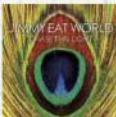
"I think everybody wants to say that their generation's medium for listening to music – like vinyl, cassettes and CDs – was the best one. I don't know that a kid today even knows that they'd be missing out on something, because they still have access to the music of the bands that they love. As a kid, when Alkaline Trio would put out a record, getting my mum to drive me to the record store was an exciting experience. But, by the same token, if I could have grown up knowing that when I got home I'd be able to download the album instantly, that would have been just as exciting. Things advance and things change, and it's good to embrace that. I like the fact that as soon as our record is out there, the world gets to hear it – and feel the excitement I did listening to Kiss as a kid."



ALEX GASKARTH

ALL TIME LOW

WHAT SONGS WILL STICK WITH THE
ALL TIME LOW MAN FOR LIFE... AND WHICH
WOULD HE RATHER FORGET FOREVER?



**THE SONG THAT MAKES
ME THINK OF HOME IS...**

BIG CASINO

JIMMY EAT WORLD

"Big Casino, for me, has a lot of ties to what it's like to be in a band and leave home for the first time on tour and stuff. It's about remembering where you came from and thinking about what your legacy will be when it's all over. When I'm out on the road it takes me back to that idea of where we all started – even if, because of when it was released, I didn't necessarily listen to it much when I actually was at home!"

FIND IT: *Chase This Light* (2007)



**THE SONG THAT MADE
ME WANT TO BE A
MUSICIAN WAS...**

ANTHEM (LIVE VERSION)

BLINK-182

"I'd have to say Anthem, but I'm going to go for the live version specifically. There's an amazing energy that Blink always manage to convey when they play shows, and that really captured me when I heard this song. Also, they're funny as hell when they play live and that definitely inspired me a lot, too!"

FIND IT: *The Mark, Tom And Travis Show (The Enema Strikes Back)* (2000)



**THE LAST SONG I
LISTENED TO WAS...**

**SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL
SAVES THE DAY**

"Old-school Saves The Day is brilliant and there's a line in this song about listening to Queen and rocking out in the car that never ceases to make me laugh and reminds me of being a kid. Saves The Day are a brilliant band that everyone should check out."

FIND IT: *Through Being Cool* (1999)



**THE SONG I'D LIKE TO BE
REMEMBERED FOR IS...**

MISSING YOU

ALL TIME LOW

"It's a hard question, but I think Missing You would be my pick. I'd love for that song to become as recognised and loved by others as it felt it had the potential to when I was writing it. It's a really personal song but something I deliberately intended to appeal to the most universal audience possible. It's the track of ours I keep closest to my heart."

FIND IT: *Future Hearts* (2015)



THE BEST SONG EVER IS...

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT

NIRVANA

"I mean, come on, it's got to be Teen Spirit, right? People will moan and say it's overplayed and stuff, but I'm like, 'It's overplayed for a reason, man!' That riff, those lyrics, the way it pretty much changed the face of rock music forever. I don't think you can really like rock music and not like Teen Spirit, can you?"

FIND IT: *Nevermind* (1991)

beat
rate 98
8pm
Ego

117
63
heart 85
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**THE SONG THAT MAKES ME
WANT TO CRY IS...**

LET IT DIE
FOO FIGHTERS

"It's just a really, really powerful song, I think. It's got some weight to it, y'know, like you feel it every time you listen to it. Dave Grohl is such a fantastic songwriter that it seems like he can just conjure up any emotion at the drop of a hat and drive it right through your heart. He's probably as close to a modern genius as it gets, in my opinion."

FIND IT: *Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace* (2007)



beat rate 98 Bpm
Ecg117 63 high normal
heart 85 low**THE SONG WITH THE BEST LYRICS IS...**
MOTORCYCLE DRIVE BY THIRD EYE BLIND

"I've always loved [frontman] Stephan Jenkins' lyrics. This song is such an interesting subject and he deals with it in the most beautiful way. A whole song basically about a motorbike is not something you'd think anyone would want to put pen to paper about, but it's so gripping when you actually get into it and realise what he's saying!"

FIND IT: Third Eye Blind (1997)**THE WORST SONG EVER IS...****COME ONE, COME ALL
ALL TIME LOW**

"There are some bad songs out there, but I feel terrible about throwing someone under the bus like that... So, hey, let's do one of our songs! We did one called Come One, Come All and I hate that tune. It was a song we didn't need to write for the record but someone told us we should write more, so we did. I listen to it now and think it's so dumb. I have such disdain for it!"

FIND IT: So Wrong, It's Right (2007)

BILLY CORGAN SMASHING PUMPKINS

WHAT MAKES ROCK'S MOST FAMOUSLY GRUMPY FRONTMAN CRACK A SMILE?**THE FIRST SONG I LEARNED TO PLAY WAS...****HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN
THE ANIMALS**

"My dad was in a covers band and that was the first song I asked him to teach me. I would listen to it and think, 'How do you do that? How did you make that sound?' After that I never actually learned any more songs. My father told me, 'Don't bother playing other people's songs, write your own.' That was really interesting because he was the type of musician who was playing covers in bands. It's one of the best things he ever told me."

FIND IT: The Animals (1964)

day I wrote the chorus for Bullet With Butterfly Wings. I was sitting there bored out of my mind, [the producers] were dicking around with some microphone, and I had this line in my head, 'Despite all my rage I'm still just a rat in a cage'. I was just sitting there, bored, and I picked up the guitar and I started singing. But what if the guy had been like, 'Oh, we're ready!?' People don't appreciate that there's a thing that needs to happen. The stars need to align."

FIND IT: Mellon Collie And The Infinite Sadness (1995)**THE SONG THAT MAKES ME HAPPY IS...****ALONE AGAIN (NATURALLY)
GILBERT O'SULLIVAN**

"I always think the most depressing songs [are the great ones]. Alone Again (Naturally) is so great; it's so sad that it makes me laugh. Most people say, 'Oh, that's kinda sad,' but I like that stuff. It's like when people say that The Cure's music is sad – I just don't get that. There's a sanguine quality to certain songwriters. I think humour has always been a part of the Pumpkins."

FIND IT: Back To Front (1972)**THE SONG I WROTE BY FATE IS...****BULLET WITH BUTTERFLY WINGS
SMASHING PUMPKINS**

"The day we recorded [the cover of Fleetwood Mac's] Landslide at the BBC was also the same

**THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING IS...****DOGS
PINK FLOYD**

"I've always been surrounded by music because I have two brothers and a sister who are older than I am and they were always listening to different stuff. I became a music addict but I remember listening to Animals a lot."

FIND IT: Animals (1977)**MY FAVOURITE SONG AT SCHOOL WAS...****SAVE A PRAYER
DURAN DURAN**

"I was a big fan of Duran Duran at school. That's not a guilty pleasure or something I'm embarrassed by because they wrote really good songs. I could go for anything from that period, but I really like Save A Prayer."

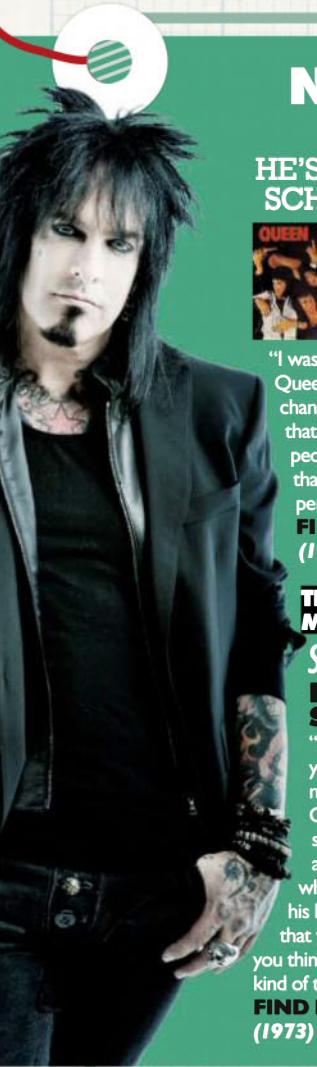
FIND IT: Rio (1982)**THE SONG I FELL IN LOVE TO WAS...****CEMETERY GATES
PANTERA**

"It's not exactly a romantic song, but I've picked Cemetery Gates just because it was played a lot in the metal pub I was going to when I was dating this person. We both loved Pantera, so there was a sort of connection."

FIND IT: Cowboys From Hell (1990)

CRISTINA SCABBIA LACUNA COIL

LIVING PROOF THAT FALLING IN LOVE TO PANTERA IS POSSIBLE...



NIKKI SIXX MÖTLEY CRÜE

HE'S A BIG FAN OF OLD-SCHOOL TWERKING...



MY FAVE SONG AT SCHOOL WAS...

KILLER QUEEN QUEEN

"I was really into Queen. When Killer Queen came out, that was a game-changer. I'd never heard anything like that. I didn't understand where these people that looked and sounded like that lived. I just figured every British person was a *rockstar*!"

FIND IT: *Sheer Heart Attack* (1974)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE IS...

SEARCH AND DESTROY IGGY AND THE STOOGES

"I don't know if it's dancing, but if you put Search And Destroy on, man, I pop to attention every time! Oh my God, it's one of the greatest songs ever written. The Stooges are just a magical band. You know when Iggy stuck his butt out and did that weird thing? If you think about it, he was kind of the first twerker!"

FIND IT: *Raw Power* (1973)



MATT CAUGTHRAN THE BRONX

THIS ABSOLUTE PUNK LEGEND IS A BIG FAN OF SOME OTHER ABSOLUTE LEGENDS' CLASSICS...



MY FAVOURITE SONG AT SCHOOL WAS...

SCHIZOPHRENIA

SONIC YOUTH

"My first girlfriend was really into Sonic Youth, and she introduced me to them, and they became one of my very favourite bands. This song just meant the world to me. I used to listen to it on headphones, just walking around, and that intro with the drums just kills me every time. It's one of those songs that really takes me back to exactly what I was feeling at the time, and it was also important in kind of forming my tastes. Sonic Youth were a huge bridge for me, musically, they helped open me up and get me out of listening to nothing but metal and LA punk."

FIND IT: *Sister* (1987)



THE FIRST SONG I EVER LEARNT TO PLAY WAS...

MODERN MAN

BAD RELIGION

"The first song I learned to sing the whole way through was probably this one."



HEAD KORN

HE LOVES METAL BOATS AND SONGS...



THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY IS...

MY HEART WILL GO ON

CELINE DION

"Oh, it's the *Titanic* soundtrack, absolutely! I remember going to see the film with my wife and being all teared up about it. Just imagine what it would be like to be there with your wife and be like, 'Okay, get ready, we're dying now...' What did the rest of my band say? Munky said Sinatra? What a little bitch!"

FIND IT: *Titanic OST* (1997)



THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO STAGE-DIVE IS...

CHOP SUEY!

SYSTEM OF A DOWN

"There's only one song that completely makes me want to stage-dive and it's Chop Suey! by System Of A Down. In fact, it might even be my favourite metal song ever written, and that's saying a lot. To me, they were just this weird little band and then they did *Toxicity* and they took everyone's head off. Isn't it crazy that they're not properly back with a new record? I'd love to see them live again now, too."

FIND IT: *Toxicity* (2001)



beat rate 98 Bpm

ECG



JASON AALON BUTLER LET LIVE.

THIS DUDE DOESN'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK. HE THINKS BUSH ROCKED!



THE SONG I HAVE WRITTEN I'M MOST PROUD OF IS...

PHEROMONE CVLT

LET LIVE.

"This is the first time I really remember writing a lot of the parts, from the drums to the guitars, to the words, but most importantly, I think it's just the one that I feel I've been most intensely 'in the moment' on, for a while. It's hard to get to that place inside yourself, but when you manage to get there, it's the most rewarding feeling. I enjoy writing that way and this song came off just the way I imagined and hoped it would."

FIND IT: *The Blackest Beautiful* (2013)



THE FIRST SONG I EVER LEARNED TO PLAY WAS...

GLYCERINE

BUSH

"Bush is, like, my favourite band, dude! I legitimately love that band. I really liked their approach to grunge and I gather that they weren't taken too seriously over here in the UK, but in the U.S. we loved them. I didn't actually get a guitar until later on in my life because my mom and my dad were trying to keep me away from a life in music, but when I did, my uncle from Scotland showed me the basic chords and I learned how to play *Glycerine*, which was probably my favourite song at the time."

FIND IT: *Sixteen Stone* (1994)



THE SADDEST SONG I'VE EVER HEARD IS...

CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT

ELTON JOHN

"This is the one that really gets me going. Yeah, it's the one from *The Lion King*. I'm being completely serious. That song hits me where it hurts, man. There's just something about it that brings on the floodgates. Maybe it's wrapped up in memories of watching the movie or whatever it was that was going on in my life when I first heard it, but something just chills me on that song. Such a sad vibe."

FIND IT: *The Lion King OST* (1994)

AMY LEE

EVANESCENCE

THIS SIREN SINGER KNOWS BETTER THAN MOST THAT SOME SONGS CAN BRING YOU TO LIFE. BUT HER CHOICES MIGHT NOT BE WHAT YOU'D EXPECT!

WORDS: RYAN COOPER, GEORGE GARNER, TOMAS DOYLE, DAN SLESSOR
PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES



**THE FIRST SONG I
REMEMBER
HEARING IS...**

GOODNIGHT MY LOVE

PAUL ANKA

"One of the first songs I ever heard, my parents used to sing to me and I don't even know who the song is by, but it's called Goodnight My Love! That sounds familiar, 'Goodnight my love, pleasant dreams, sleep tight my love, may tomorrow be sunny and bright'. I love that song. My parents used to sing me to sleep with that when I was a baby, so that's got to be one of the very first songs I ever heard!"

FIND IT: *Goodnight My Love* (1969)



**THE FIRST SONG
I LEARNED TO
PLAY WAS...**

HEART AND SOUL

LARRY CLINTON

"Heart And Soul, just like probably 500 million other people after seeing the movie Big [1988]. When I was six years old, Big was my movie. There's a scene where they go into FAO Schwarz [toy shop] and there's a big keyboard on the ground – a flat mat – and Tom Hanks and his boss play Heart And Soul. I saw that scene and every Christmas, for like six years, my number one thing I'd ask for was a giant keyboard that you played with your feet. This was before the internet and my dad would go on missions to try to find something like that every year and always fail. That was the first song I played with my hands – not my feet!"

FIND IT: *Classic Years Of Larry Clinton* (2007)



**THE SADDEST
SONG I'VE EVER
HEARD IS...**

OVER THE RAINBOW

JUDY GARLAND

"It's hard for me to think of a song that's just like the saddest most desperate, but if there's one that makes

me cry, I'm going with Over The Rainbow. I don't know what it is about, but every time I hear that song I tear up. It makes me very emotional. My dad played it at my wedding on a ukulele and I remember that being a really beautiful moment. Every time I hear it I get really weepy!"

FIND IT: *The Wizard Of Oz Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* (1995)



**THE
SONG I
FELL IN
LOVE TO
WAS...**

**SOMEWHERE ONLY
WE KNOW**

KEANE

"There are a few, but specifically it would be Keane, their record *Hopes And Fears*, and the song *Somewhere Only We Know*. When I first started dating [husband] Josh [Hartzler], he was in New York and I was in LA and we were missing each other a lot, so I asked him, 'What record should I listen to, to get to know you better?' and he said that record. I was listening to it all the time and that became the song that I would listen to and dream about Josh."

FIND IT: *Hopes And Fears* (2004)



**THE BEST SONG EVER
WRITTEN IS...**

MAN IN THE MIRROR
MICHAEL JACKSON

"I can't do this. I'm sorry. I've tried so hard. I can't. It's a trick question! There is no best song ever. There isn't. You know why? I'll tell you. Because your heart is too big for that. It takes many songs to fill all the

spaces of your heart. If I was to pick one song it would only be one or two or three emotions going on there. I love Michael Jackson, but that's a weird choice! How about *Man In The Mirror* – totally corny, but I still love it! My real answer is that there is no answer, but I'm going to choose *Man In The Mirror*, because 30 years later it still makes me feel really good."

FIND IT: *Bad* (1987)





Dr Tuck will see you now...

MATT TUCK

**BULLET FOR MY
VALENTINE**



BACK FROM THE DEAD

AFTER A DISASTROUS 2014, **BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE**'S PULSE HAD FLATLINED. NOW, WITH NEW ALBUM **VENOM** COURSING THROUGH THEIR VEINS, **MATT TUCK** IS SET TO LEAD HIS RESURRECTED MEN BACK TO THE TOP...

WORDS: NICK RUSSELL PHOTOS: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

beat rate 98 Bpm | 117 63 | high normal low | Ecg | heart 85 |

THE MAKING OF A MONSTER

THE SONGS THAT MADE BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE, REVISITED!

4 WORDS (TO CHOKED UPON)

FROM: *Hand Of Blood EP* (2005)

Matt says... "This was probably the first song we wrote as Bullet. It was our final shot before we were going to call it a day. We were gonna give it another 12 months before we threw in the towel. It was getting all that frustration out about people not giving us a chance, and aspirations of becoming something big, and it was kind of foreseeing the future in a way. It was kind of a fuck you song, like, look at me now, there's going to be a moment looking ahead and being on that stage and having that moment. That's what it was all about, really, and it worked (*laughs*)! It was the start of everything, really."

At the start of 2015, news filtered through from Bullet For My Valentine for the first time in ages. And it wasn't a clean bill of health. Last time we'd seen them was December 2013, when they'd headlined Wembley Arena, and not for the first time, either. But then? Nothing. No tours, conspicuous by their absence from festival bills the following summer, no real signs of life. Meanwhile, a younger wave of British bands – metal and otherwise – were continuing to charge forth. Bring Me The Horizon headlined Wembley. You Me At Six had a Number One album. And Bullet were nowhere to be seen.

And then the news broke: bassist Jason 'Jay' James was out. It all seemed very amicable – as Matt Tuck himself puts it, "Any other band that you can name that has gone [as long as Bullet], someone in the line-up has changed" – but it wasn't the greatest news, either. Not after a year away, in the wake of an album, 2013's *Temper Temper*, which was, in a word, disappointing. From the outside, and with only the slightest of puns intended, it looked like Bullet were coming down with a fever.

But then they delivered the cure. And the thing that's going to repair Bullet – against all traditional medical thinking – is *Venom*.



Jason 'Jay' James left Bullet last year after over a decade's service

"There's definitely a new energy going on, everyone's a lot more motivated, everyone's a lot more hungry," enthuses Matt today. "When we had the final playback, everyone was like, 'Fuck! This is a sick album.'"

Songs that saved your life? As we'll see, what some might have diagnosed as a critical state for Bullet For My Valentine has been just a bit of a sniffle under the second opinion of Dr Tuck. But Venom does mean one thing: Bullet are match-fit again.

"It's fucking great," states Matt. "The band is back."

On a boiling hot day in Upstate New York, where Bullet are currently five dates into giving America a damned good thrashing on tour with Slipknot, Matt Tuck is in a good mood. And why not? The bumps on the road have been dealt with. Venom is – and he'll say this more than once during our time with him – "probably the strongest album we've ever done". While he admits being the frontman of one of Britain's biggest metal bands can be a drag at times – "There is so much shit you have to deal with that has fucking nothing to do with music!" – being out on the road with Slipknot, with the album of your career under your belt, makes him feel "really content and happy right now". But before Venom, and before Bullet's triumphant

return at London's Camden Rocks festival in May, Bullet's activities – or lack thereof – were being seen as a portent of doom by some. And while he admits it was a long time to have radio-silence, in Bullet Land (somewhere in South Wales), things were simply being recharged.

"People have started already writing the band off, and it's been very apparent," Matt sighs. "Even though people have heard the album now and generally the vibe on it is really good, there's still people taking low blows and stuff like that. Saying we were done."

Could you understand why people might have thought like that, though?

"No, because that's just people's perception from the outside, y'know?" he replies. "Living inside the band, like we do, our last gigs were in the UK and were in arenas, *again*. And the last time we played Download was one down from the headliner, which was Slipknot, *again*. And we're on tour throughout North America being requested by Slipknot... There's nothing going on behind the scenes that is negative in this band! It's *all* from the outside, people taking cheap shots, thinking they know shit that they fucking don't. People like to look at Bullet from the outside and think they know something that no-one else does, but it's bullshit."

"The band is as strong as it's fucking ever been,"

he adds, with zero doubt in his voice. "If you look ahead at our 2015, everything is fucking rosy, so anyone who thinks otherwise can go fuck it, because it's just not true."

If Matt sounds exasperated, it's because he's fed up of people getting the wrong end of the stick. And though on paper these words may look angry, they're said with a smile and the odd laugh. Perception is, he agrees, a funny old thing. And today, Matt's taking the opportunity to set these stories straight. Starting with the departure of Jay. What happened?

"It was kind of like breaking up with a girlfriend you love deep down, but you know it's not right," he sighs. "I guess that's the best way to describe it. It's up to Jay to talk about it if he wants to; we're going to respect his privacy otherwise. Things weren't working out and it came to a point where he had to go, and that was that. We knew it was in the best interest for him, and we knew it was the best thing for us as a band going forward, but, at the same time, it definitely hurt."

Was it something

"WE'RE AS STRONG AS EVER. ANYONE WHO THINKS OTHERWISE CAN GO F*CK IT"

• MATT TUCK •



beat rate 98 Bpm | 117 Ecg | heart 85 | high normal low |

ALL THESE THINGS I HATE (REVOLVE AROUND ME)

FROM: *The Poison* (2005)

Matt says... "We weren't a public band when we were writing these songs, so we were simply writing what we thought was good – there was no other reason to worry about what other people would think. This was just one of those moments that we captured because we weren't even trying, I guess. It's hard to repeat those kind of songs when

you're an established act. You can try, but it doesn't really connect as much because you are trying."

TEARS DON'T FALL

FROM: *The Poison* (2005)

Matt says... "This was just one of those magic moments when you hit something special without trying. Even when it was kicking off we still didn't really know the affect it was having, or why it was doing what it was, we were just so caught up in the band being signed and touring that we just didn't really pay any attention, if I'm honest (*laughs*). It's a freak song, but it's definitely one of those songs which made the band what it is today."



that needed to be done for Bullet to carry on?

"It was more like trying to... I dunno, man up and make the decision that was obviously not going to be the best to deal with," comes the reply. "It could have disrupted things a lot more than it did, but, at the end of the day, again, we knew for the long-term longevity of the band going forward it was a decision that had to be made. It really fucking sucks, and I think for us and him there were moments where it was breaking our hearts, but there was no other option."

Was it something you saw coming on the horizon?

"I don't think there ever was a right time..." says Matt. "The last thing you ever want to do is lose a member of the band, let alone one of your best friends, who was there as a friend before the band even existed. We grew up together, and I think it was more like it was the right time in the fact that we wanted to start a new album cycle, and if there was any time to do it, it was when we did it. But ideally we never wanted to lose him at all. It was just one of those decisions where it just became impossible to carry on as it was."

How long ago did Jay leave?

"Last July, I think. We just didn't feel the need to tell anyone until the time was right. We were about to start writing for Venom, so we had a lot on our plates. When we entered the studio and started documenting it, obviously people were going to notice he wasn't there, so we thought, 'Okay, that's

when we have to tell people what's going on.' There was just no need to tell anyone until we had to."

What was the reaction to the announcement?

"Obviously the fans were a little bit upset," says Matt. "It was the best it could have been. There wasn't any massive fallout from the fans, though. Obviously people were curious, and some fans were upset and wanting to know who was going to replace him and all this stuff, but as soon as we started releasing snippets of music and started to show that everything was cool and the band was still going, everyone was fine with it."

But does it feel different not having him around?

"Yeah. He was such a huge character that anyone who had hung out with the band, in any way, whether it was for 10 seconds or 10 months, he was a massive energy and a huge character, and he would make everyone laugh."

And so, having closed one chapter – however difficult and unpleasant to do so it may have been – Bullet began work on their fifth. After *Temper Temper*'s so-so reception and feeling that it was the work of blockbusters settling for a couple of cheaply effective explosions, Bullet spent a lot of time recharging, looking into the mirror, remembering who they were.

Bullet – firing back: (from left) Michael 'Padge' Page, Matt Tuck, Jamie Mathias and Michael 'Moose' Thomas



"We knew what we wanted to do this time around, which is something we've never really had," reveals Matt. "We've always known *kind of* what we've wanted an album to sound like, but we had such a clear vision of what we wanted this time around. We wanted it to be aggressive, and we didn't want any of the poppier moments creeping in. If we strayed from that path, we scrapped what we were doing and started again. There were some songs that we scrapped, which were great songs, but they just didn't fit the criteria for what we wanted to do this time around."

And what was that?

"We were just setting out to make something aggressive and dark," asserts Matt. "We just wanted to make it dark and aggressive, and as soon as we started writing and getting into the zone a bit more and that headspace of writing harder stuff, it felt good. That just kind of brought more out of us. I think we took it as far as we could in the aggressive, heavy stakes. I think any more aggressive and it would have been heavy for heavy's sake, and we would have started to lose the Bullet identity, which was not something we were willing to compromise."

"There's obviously a lot more of our roots and our more traditional influences creeping in, like Metallica, but, at the same time, we didn't want to make an old-fashioned-sounding record," he continues. "We wanted it to sound relevant and



SCREAM AIM FIRE

FROM: *Scream Aim Fire* (2008)

Matt says... "That was at the time I could barely fucking sing, let alone do an entire album. I haven't listened to it for years anyway, but when I do hear something on TV or someone has it on and I hear it, it gives me a bit of a yucky feeling in the belly because it doesn't even sound like me. It was one of those moments where we didn't put everything in perspective. We could have stopped and waited for my voice to come back, but we didn't because we felt under pressure, and we felt we needed to get it done. I captured a moment in time, I guess, and that's something that I've learned from immensely anyway."

WAKING THE DEMON

FROM: *Scream Aim Fire* (2008)

Matt says... "This was just one of those things where we'd gone from nothing to being a pretty big deal straight away, then all of a sudden wanting to write another record, so it was weird. We hadn't had that experience before. I feel good that the vocals on *Waking The Demon* are from the demo; they weren't recorded for the album. That was because I was going through all the throat shit at the time, and I couldn't really sing, and we actually started to use the stuff from the demos because it sounded so good."

YOUR BETRAYAL

FROM: *Fever* (2010)

Matt says... "I think [my] confidence was a lot higher than it was going into *Scream Aim Fire*. The voice was back, and we had a few songs that were definitely a step forward in the songwriting stakes. I remember we were doing some of the tracking with [producer] Don Gilmore at the time, and we had our last day booked at that studio. So, me and Moose went in and said, 'Let's just go in and see if we can write a track today,' just because we had a day free. It was a good day's work!"

**"IF THIS GOES
TITS UP, AT
LEAST WE CAN
HOLD OUR
HEADS HIGH"**

• MATT TUCK •



Matt prepared to settle doubts
that he could fit his fist in his
mouth once and for all

fresh and edgy. It's kind of a nice balance of both worlds, sticking to what we've always done and doing what we know we do best, but trying to evolve it, so it sounds a bit fresher."

Were you trying to avoid making another *Temper Temper*?

"Well, I think it's a good record, but it's not what people wanted," Matt explains. "This was completely the opposite of that record. We didn't spend any time on *Temper Temper*. We just wrote a song, recorded it, thought, 'Yeah, that's cool,' and stuck it on the record. It was very spontaneous, very energetic, and it was fun in that way. But, obviously, having lived with those songs and maybe rewrote them and lived with them for a bit longer, we could have had a record that stands up a lot better."

Did not having Jay around affect the writing?

"That was probably a factor in why it sounds so aggressive, because behind the scenes there was a lot of emotion between me and the guys that no-one fucking knew about for quite a long time. So, I guess that tension or whatever came out in the songs."

Matt is, to put it mildly, fucking confident about how good the end result is. "I can't think of a metal record this interesting that'll come out this year," is what he says to us today. A couple of months back, he told K! that "Venom is the metal album of 2015". But even this statement isn't without a feeling of change from Bullet. In a studio report around *Temper Temper*, Matt was quoted as saying his group had "never really been a metal band". Eh, what?

"I think I remember saying that, but I *think* what I said was that we were not *just* a metal band," he replies. "I wouldn't say that we're a typical metal band; we have a lot of elements and songs in our



back catalogue that other metal bands wouldn't touch with a barge pole! We can be kind of soppy at times (*laughs*). But that's just always what we've done. We're not a typical metal band, and I think with a comment like that, that was what I was trying to get across."

This time, though, Matt's message isn't going to be misconstrued. *Venom* is a metal album. And he loves it.

"Personally, if I was growing up as a young metalhead or whatever, I would think this is by far the most interesting metal record of the year," he smiles, "Because that's what I really think we've made."

That's one for endless debate down the pub. But what isn't is that Bullet were the first heavy British band in a long time to make it giant. Where now we have *Bring Me The Horizon* headlining Wembley, Architects doing the business across the world, and even – stretching the goalposts slightly

– the likes of You Me At Six hitting paydirt, it was Bullet who did it first, changing the perception of what a modern British metal band could do. No longer did we have to settle for being the underdogs, acting as support for whichever Americans were playing our big venues. And where Bullet led, others have followed.

"We've always been hailed as the 'flag bearers' of British metal and stuff like that," laughs Matt, modestly. "I mean, that's been happening since [2005 debut] *The Poison*, so we've always had that attachment, and if that's true, that's an absolute honour. It's just something that's been pushed upon us rather than us saying it ourselves. If it's helped in any way, that's great, if we've influenced anyone to pick up a guitar and go for it, because it does take a lot of hard work, a lot of sacrifice and a lot of bullshit to get to where a band like we have gotten today. Younger bands coming up today have got an even harder job to do with the way the record industry is going. But if they say it's because of us that they're doing it, that's cool."

Whatever people are saying about Bullet, today Matt Tuck is happy. Whether or not *Venom* proves to be the album of the year is something of a moot point talking to him, because he genuinely believes it. And that isn't arrogance. It's quite the opposite when you've created something you feel satisfied with: it's pride.

"I'm fucking happy with *Venom*," he says. "We wouldn't have left the recording studio if we weren't. But that's all you can do. The only thing we can do is do our best and make sure that we're happy. Because then, if it goes tits up, then fuck it, at least we can hold our heads high."

And as for the perception of Bullet For My Valentine as a band on the way out, Matt says it's very much a case of whatever doesn't kill them only makes his band stronger.

"There's no way there would have been thoughts about ending the band creeping in," he asserts confidently, but with a smile. "So, even if there are bumps in the road, bumps are what separates the men from the boys. And once you get over those bumps and continue to fucking rise, that's what makes something special. And that's what we continue to do every single time."

VENOM IS OUT THIS WEEK VIA RCA. BULLET TOUR IN UK IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER – SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFO



beat rate 98 Bpm | 117 63 | heart 85 | high normal low |

THE LAST FIGHT

FROM: *Fever* (2010)

Matt says... "I remember sitting down with Don Gilmore and him asking what *The Last Fight* was about and I was like, 'I don't know.' We came up with this concept of trying to help – thinking about stuff growing up, we had a few friends who were kind of mixed up with the wrong crowd, and were experimenting with drugs and booze and had some issues, and it was like, 'Well, I'll write a song about that and trying to help those people, when they don't actually want to be helped!'"

TEMPER TEMPER

FROM: *Temper Temper* (2013)

Matt says... "I think the song was just what it says; it's about anger, trying to keep shit under control when things get heated. It's a very simple song. I just loved the title and went in there thinking about anger and pent-up aggression and seeing red, and just trying to encapsulate that."

NO WAY OUT

FROM: *Venom* (2015)

Matt says... "Venom was one of those moments, like, 'Yes!' Coming off the back of *Temper Temper* not being as heavy at all, we knew it was going to have an even more dramatic effect. It was good, you know, the song is one that

developed as we were going along, and it couldn't be more different from anything we'd done, I think ever. But, at the same time, I think it just has that identity and that edginess that made the band what it was in the first place."

YOU WANT A BATTLE? (HERE'S A WAR)

FROM: *Venom* (2015)

Matt says... "I think as we've grown as musicians, and as a singer, I've learned how to do my role better, and applying every single thing I knew to one song was good. I think this is a fucking banger, too – it's just got everything you'd want in a modern metal track, and it sets the tone for what people can expect. This is some serious shit going on with this album."

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VANS KERRANG!
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NEW YEARS DAY
ASH COSTELLO







VANS KERRANG!
WARPED TOUR '15
BLACK VEIL BRIDES
ANDY BIERACK

VANS KERRANG!
WARPED
TOUR '15
PIERCE THE VEIL
VIC FUENTES





VANS KERRANG!
WARPED TOUR '15
SET IT OFF







David didn't last long at Happy
Chuckles Home Delivery Pizza Co.

INTERVIEW

HEEEERE'S DAVEY!

WORDS: MATT ALLEN PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES

DISTURBED'S REUNION AFTER FOUR YEARS APART TOOK THE WORLD BY SURPRISE. BUT IS A NEW, CALMER **DAVID DRAIMAN** SET TO SHOCK US EVEN FURTHER?

David Draiman was misinterpreted – and in a big way, too. In 2011, his band, Disturbed, then at the peak of their powers, were retreating from the limelight – five albums in, four of them U.S. Number Ones; there had been Grammy nominations, and an appearance at Wembley Arena. But when the American four-piece temporarily called time after 15 years in the game, their frontman reportedly swiped at his peers. His claims? Heavy metal was in demise, the music industry on the verge of collapse. “It’s just a good time for Disturbed to go away for a while and wait for the phoenix to rise from the ashes,” he said.

Only the final statement was accurate.

With a surprise new album, *Immortalized*, set for release (and we say ‘surprise’ because the first anyone heard of it was when incendiary single *The Vengeful One* exploded on YouTube in June), David now has the chance to set the record straight. He’s in a happy mood today, despite a fever that seems to be breaking as he settles into a sofa with guitarist Dan Donegan at his record label’s West London offices. Apparently, their recording together again has delivered an exciting vibe. Disturbed are about to author a new chapter in their story. There’s just some unexpected plot twists to be explained from the last one, first.

“I never thought that metal was in any kind of demise,” he says. “I thought that a lot of the old, classic bands that used to be renowned, colleagues of ours, had gone away. People interpreted that to mean I was worried about the demise of hard rock and heavy metal. I’m not worried about the demise of hard rock or

“I’VE DONE MY HARDEST TO KEEP MY TEMPER UNDER CONTROL”

DAVID DRAIMAN

heavy metal in any way, shape or form. I see plenty of strength.”

Disturbed’s return provides brawny back-up, too. A mainstream concern when they embarked on their four-year holiday, David, Dan, drummer Mike Wengren and bassist John Moyer were once known for hooky but muscular guitar riffs, anthems jacked-up with heavy drum breaks, and David’s brooding vocals, which often arrived imbued with an end-of-days lyrical menace (*Inside The Fire* was even written about an ex-girlfriend who committed suicide). Their hiatus came from necessity, though: routine had worn them down.

“The situation had become an assembly line,” says David. “Make a record, tour, make a record, tour. Every year we’d get on the bus, punch the clock, so to speak. That cyclical nature bred sterility and it makes you predictable. We didn’t want to be that. It’s healthier to not constantly be churning it out. But it was a roll of the dice, it was a bit of a gutsy move.”

Luckily, their time apart proved rejuvenating.

Each band member reconnected with friends and family. David began producing other bands, including Trivium and their 2013 album, *Vengeance Falls*, while also recording a full album with a new band, Device. But it wasn’t enough. “It was nice to take a breather,” he says. “It was nice to be human beings for a while. It was even nice to experience some things with other musicians, but there’s nothing like the magic that we have.”

The first moves to reconvene took root in January 2014. Dan travelled to Austin, Texas, to meet David’s new son. There was dinner, some talk of song ideas. Weeks later, guitar riffs were being emailed. It was time to go record again. “Dude, I’ve got to come out there,” said David in one phone call to Dan. “I’m banging my head against a wall and frustrating myself.”

The project was kept secret. Only a small circle of trust was let in on the news, says David – “A very few; a small selection of family.”

“I think my father-in-law was worried for a while there,” says Dan. “I wasn’t showing up for a couple of family events and he was probably thinking something was wrong with the marriage. Eventually, we let him in.”

The sessions proved inspirational, too. Rather than trading ideas via emails and soundfiles as before, the band rustled up demos in a room, together. It was the first time they had written that way since 2002’s *Believe*. “Having Dan and Mike as my barometers, my measuring sticks, was tremendously valuable,” says David. “I’m horribly hard on myself. I’ll sit for hours and weeks and beat the hell out of myself and not be happy with anything that I’ve come up with.”

He needn’t have worried. The results, when

they arrived, were a dramatic retooling of the Disturbed blueprint. It is, reckons David, their most diverse piece of work yet. There are "synthetic" orchestras, electronica, even a love song. "A first," says David. "It's called You're Mine and I wrote it for my wife. It's still aggressive and powerful, though."

And the darkness, as always, is there, looming in the background.

"We've always got to stick a little meat and potatoes in. There's a song called The Light, and the concept behind it is that the dark periods we have in our lives are merely a pathway to something better. You have to endure and persevere, and sometimes the darkness can show you the light. Sometimes darkness can be comforting."

As is a little herbal therapy. Whenever David experiences writer's block, he's known to get high – very high. "I smoke the biggest, fattest, most delicious bowl of weed to loosen up and relax." Sometimes, he even stands in the shower for an hour afterwards to find inspiration. Album track Fire It Up became an autobiographical retelling of his process, complete with the sound of bubbling bongs, recorded by David in his vocal booth.

"We brought in this huge glass piece," he says. "This big old bong, filled it up with the goodness and I took a couple of rips off it. I was beyond stupid by the time we was done, because that thing was big, the weed was nice..."

"He was the Snoop Dogg of the hard rock world," says Dan.

David laughs. "Yeah, I'd love to hang with Snoop and make a little salad."

Busted ankle, three ribs on one side, two the other..."

David is listing the injuries he's picked up over the years: a collection of war trophies, most of them sustained in brawls. "I've got bones broken all over my body. My nose was broken a few times. See that thumb?" He raises his hand, tapping at the wrist. "The knuckle was down here. I fishhooked a guy in a fight and it got caught. I'm damaged goods, brother. I'm scarred."

One early violent outburst took place on his birthday, when David was around the age of six or seven.

"My parents got me a clown for the party," he says. "He had this little guillotine thing, part of a magic trick. You stick your finger in and it looks like it's gonna chop it off, but it doesn't. I didn't want to do it. The clown was *insistent*. He says, 'You have to.' When I wasn't looking, he grabbed my finger, put it in there and brought the guillotine down, so I punched him on the clown nose. He started bleeding and got pissed at my mum. Ever since then, I haven't been right with clowns."

All of them?

"Yeah... with respect to Clown from Slipknot. I love Shawn [Crahan]. He's a good guy. But when he puts that mask on, I'm afraid of him. I wanna go pick up a flame-thrower."

So, about all those 'Mad Davey' jokes of old, mate...

DOWN WITH THE QUOTENESS

SOME OF THE IMMORTAL LINES DAVID'S GIVEN KERRANG! OVER THE YEARS...

"My typical day on the road hopefully ends with a lot of sex and a lot of drunkenness."

"MY FATHER WENT TO JAIL FOR ABOUT TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS. SOME BUSINESS PARTNER OF HIS COMMITTED A WHOLE BUNCH OF MAIL FRAUD AND THERE WAS AN INSURANCE INVESTIGATION."

"I lit my principal's van on fire."

"[MY FIRST SHAG] WAS VERY BAD. I WAS 12 YEARS OLD, AND IT WAS WITH MY BABYSITTER, WHO WAS SITTING FOR MY LITTLE BROTHER. SHE WASN'T EXACTLY OF LEGAL AGE HERSELF, THOUGH..."

"In 1996, I bought a Dodge Avenger, a real pimpy car – leather interior, crazy stereo system, sun-roof. It was a big ol' phallus."

"MY JOB IS TO BE ABLE TO GO UP ONSTAGE AND PERFORM THE MOST FULFILLING RITUAL IN ALL OF HUMAN EXISTENCE."

"[Disturbed is] an over-sexed band."



David through the K! years:
fake blood not optional

Such is the rage that still burns inside him. Since their arrival with breakout album The Sickness in 2000, David has earned a feisty reputation. During Disturbed's early stages of ascendency, people nicknamed him "mad". Even recently, he departed from Twitter in a strop, following a rant against trolls. As part of an Israeli family, the site became a mouthpiece for him to rail against anti-Semitism, until several heated disputes (his posts often written in capital letters) persuaded him to close down his account.

"I'm done with social media, personally," he said afterwards. "It has become a playground for trolls, a playground for these people who prey on one another. You can't get anything decent done on there any more; you just open yourself up to constant attack."

The flashpoints, however, have become less frequent. There's a calm now, he says, and much of this transformation is rooted in marriage and family life – David wedded former WWE wrestler Lena Yada in 2011, and the couple now have a young son. "Truth be told, the wife and kid are the most amazing balancing agent for that," he says. "It's brought serenity and peace. I'm still a



Lucky for Disturbed, black was still in fashion four years on: (from left) John Moyer, Dan Donegan, David Draiman and Mike Wengren

work-in-progress, like we all are, but I've done my hardest to keep a relatively fiery temper under control. I've never been more at peace, but at the same time I've never been more defensive."

In what way?

"I've never been more frightful for, and angry at, a world that harbours so many evils and so much danger for my child. Whatever rage, or anger, or fury that I was able to wield or unleash prior to them coming into my life is now amplified. Hundred fold. But the other side of that is I've learned to let go of a lot of shit. As long as things are going okay, I don't have all that much to get angry about – until someone crosses the line, or infringes upon my family. Then I wouldn't want to be around me."

Age has mellowed him elsewhere, too. These days, he's proud of his tattoo-free body, because it sets him apart from his peers. There will be no more piercing, either. "The last one is what you see," he says, pointing to the fanglike prongs that droop from his lower lip. "I haven't pierced anything since these. I'm good. I've got enough metal going on in my face." His attitudes towards the age-old virtues of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll have also altered. "I'm certainly still quite a big fan of sex. Obviously, now I'm a married man, I enjoy sex with my wife [rather than with] a whole bunch of groupies."

Drugs?

"One drug, which is my herb, and god knows I'm a lifelong fan of rock'n'roll."

So, it was quite wild back in the day...

"Yeah, it was. It's part of the reason why it took me so long to find a good woman to marry. There was a legacy of brutality to overcome. It was not easy."

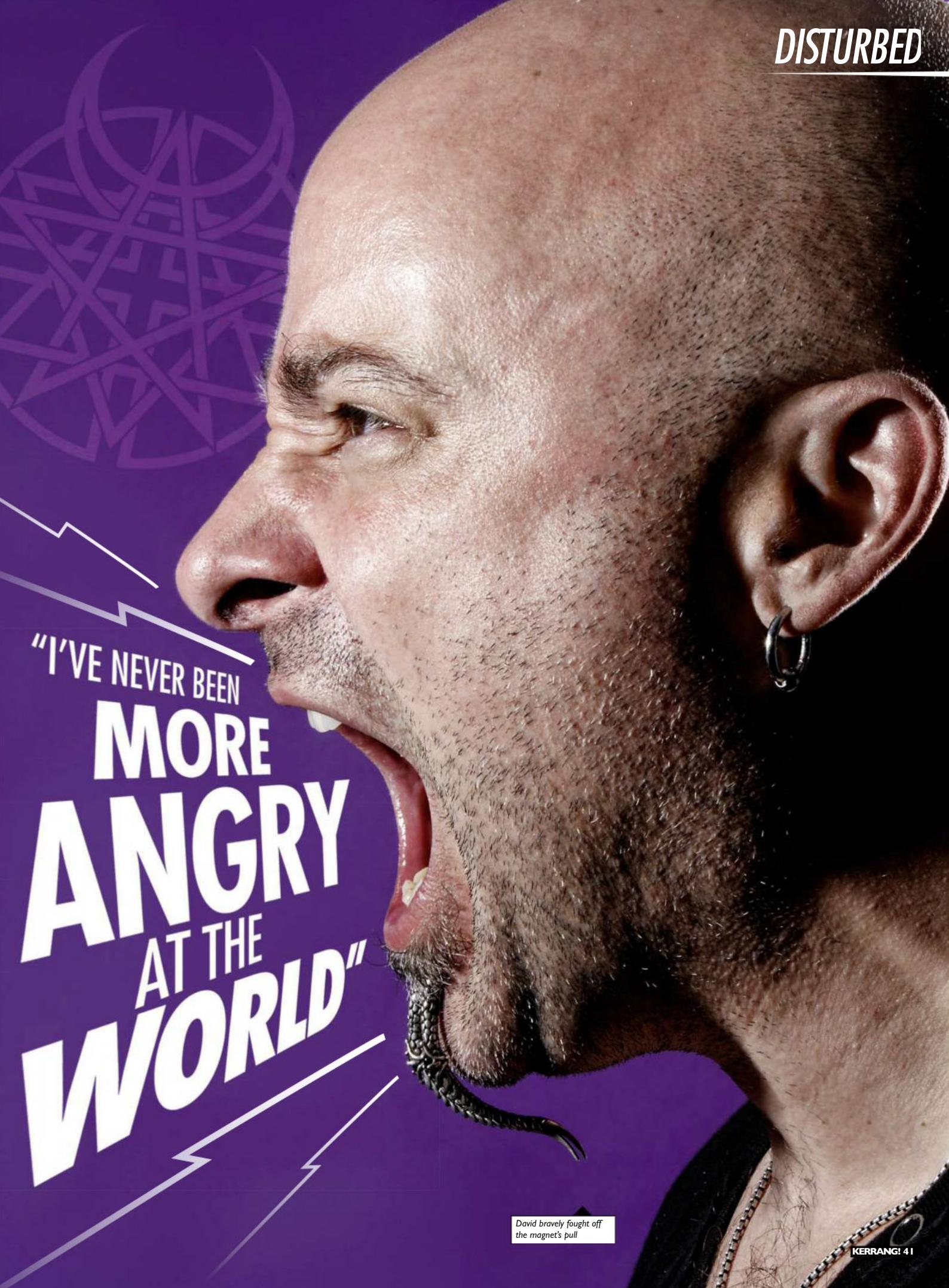
He's had four long years to acclimatise, and the world has changed around him, but David Draiman and Disturbed are moving into a new phase of productivity. They're in good shape, too. Older and wiser; calmer – well, possibly. Though there's obviously an edge that still drives them, in their frontman especially. And it's ensured that no matter how much the world has changed – and moved on – since Disturbed were last onstage, their return to the scene is not a matter that daunts David.

"The [metal and hard rock] environment is incredibly strong," he says. "Despite what these naysayers say again and again. We're gonna come back and help with the rest of the genre in proving all of them wrong. That's what we're relishing. We're coming back because we're full of fire, full of passion, full of desire. And whether the door is open or not, we're gonna kick the fucker open."

Time, it seems, for some more broken bones.

DISTURBED'S IMMORTALIZED IS OUT ON AUGUST 21 VIA REPRISE RECORDS

DISTURBED



"I'VE NEVER BEEN
**MORE
ANGRY
AT THE
WORLD"**

David bravely fought off
the magnet's pull

BLWCK

FOR DECADES, BLACK METAL HAS BEEN A WORLD RUN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY MEN. BUT NOW, **AMALIE BRUUN** IS MAKING A STAND WITH THE MAJESTIC **MYRKUR**...

As a genre steeped equally in mystery and misanthropy, black metal has spawned more than its share of solitary auteurs. From the hugely influential Burzum to innumerable cult acts and side-projects, the one-man-band format has become a staple of the scene. One-woman bands, on the other hand, have remained rarer than troll shit within this male-dominated arena.

At least, until now.

Very few acts have sparked as much discussion in the murky metal underground in recent years as Myrkur, who debuted with an eponymous EP last year. Initially shrouded in anonymity, the project was quickly revealed to be the work of Danish musician Amalie Bruun.

"I don't really know how I feel about all the attention because I don't really enjoy it. Being a little antisocial as a person, it's been quite overwhelming trying to learn how to deal with it," Amalie sighs.

The original faceless approach was, she says, an attempt to keep the focus entirely on the music. Once its creator's identity had been uncovered by internet sleuths, however, the fact that Amalie also fronts an indie-pop band called Ex Cops and once modelled in a Chanel advert directed by Martin Scorsese ensured that – rightly or wrongly – much of the debate would continue to be about anything other than the music.

"I'm fortunate that I was born with so many talents and I can do whatever I want," Amalie says. "It's so funny to me how the best diss some people can think of is that I've succeeded in many areas. It all comes very naturally to me and I believe that artists should grow – if not, they're fucking boring. I allowed myself to grow and I'm fortunate that other people have had extreme reactions to it, whether positive or negative."

"I do think sometimes it's a little unfairly done, though. Seeing myself described as a model before a musician, for example. Instead of writing 'multi-instrumentalist songwriter from Denmark', they want to just call me a

model because I've done one modelling job. They want to dehumanise or shrink me as a musician."

There's a striking visual aesthetic that runs alongside Myrkur's music, but even this, Amalie says, was never part of the plan. It was only when her identity became public knowledge that she decided she had to take control of the way she was portrayed. Powerful visual imagery and symbolism was all part of that.

As a prominent female in an almost exclusively male musical world, Amalie has already experienced misogynistic bile from idiots online. She's aware of her position, but has no desire to be anybody's role model or figurehead.

"At the end of the day, no-one was inviting me in. I took my place but it wasn't a political thing," she explains. "I've no desire to live up to anybody's expectations or play by anybody else's rules, but I wasn't thinking, 'Oh, black metal doesn't invite women in, so I should do that.' I don't think so much about the lifestyle and the whole cult thing. For me, it really is all about the music."

Indeed, music has been a part of Amalie Bruun's life for as long as she can remember. She grew up playing classical music and singing in a choir before discovering black metal in her teens and immediately drawing a parallel between the two apparently disparate forms. The music that would eventually emerge under the Myrkur banner was written as a personal outlet and not initially intended for an audience. This is also why it took the form of a one-woman project, although for her imminent debut album, *M*, Amalie recruited additional musicians including Mayhem and Nidring guitarist Teloch and Nidring

Amalie Bruun: one-woman black metal band, indie pop vocalist, semi-efficient scarecrow

M

METAL MISOGYNY?

AMALIE REVEALS THE HATEFUL REACTIONS FROM CORNERS OF THE METAL WORLD...

AMALIE SAYS... "Of course I've encountered misogyny. I've had the attitude of focusing on the good men in the world, of which there are so many, but there are also a lot of waste-of-air type people. At the end of the day I think those people are beyond reach. They're not worth trying to help or start a dialogue with. They feel I stole something from them that wasn't theirs to begin with. I haven't experienced any limitations, though. I have a record deal, I'm playing the festivals I want to and I've worked with my heroes, so have I experienced anything that matters? Not really. Have I seen unintelligent shit on the internet? Yes, but I'm sure every artist gets that to some degree."

For a one-time model, Amalie didn't know much about how sleeves work

drummer Øyvind Myrvoll – not to mention a full complement of horn, steel-string and traditional Scandinavian folk players.

As you might gather from the personnel involved, M stems from the more epic and atmospheric school of black metal. Sweeping symphonic elements and beautifully haunting vocals give way to outbursts of aural violence as Amalie and her conspirators leave vivid pictures scored across the mind's eye. Beauty-and-the-beast vocals have become something of a cliché in female-fronted metal, but they're not usually delivered by the same person.

"When I first discovered black metal it captured me with its extreme ugliness combined with something pure and beautiful. The aggression and the more melodic elements are two very different ways of expressing how I feel inside. I've always felt torn in two, like I wasn't a whole person in that sense," she explains.

Kristoffer 'Garm'

Rygg of black metal icons Ulver also joined the project as co-producer alongside Amalie, much to the singer's delight. Under his guidance they recorded part of the album in the Tomba Emmanuelle – the spectacular and macabre mausoleum built by Norwegian artist Emanuel Vigeland.

"The acoustics are amazing. It has 11 seconds of natural reverb and Kris said it would be good for

my choral vocals. Plus, it's a tomb. You have the feeling of death in there, so it's quite black metal," Amalie smiles.

It's also an entirely fitting setting for a band whose name translates simply to 'Darkness' in Icelandic.

"I like the word and what it represents in different dimensions. Darkness can be good and bad," Amalie says of her chosen monicker. "I've done lots of different styles of music, worked in different fields and it's hard to feel like you have to pretend about who you are. I felt like I had this darkness inside me that wasn't accepted in a lot of places, where you're not allowed to be yourself. With Myrkur I

felt like there was somewhere I could escape to by myself."

Many musicians, particularly those from the more extreme end of the spectrum, espouse a music-as-catharsis approach. According to Amalie, however, this isn't quite the case with Myrkur:

"I wish that's what it felt like for me. It's more that I feel strongly connected

to myself at that moment. A lot of the time I feel a disassociation from myself and from reality. I think in those moments when I push myself, whether it's screaming or doing something else that feels a bit extreme, I feel at peace but it doesn't feel therapeutic. Maybe it will some day."

Whatever her motivations, it's a very good thing that Amalie Brunn has decided to express her inner darkness. A unique new force has arrived, and its name is Myrkur.

"I FELT I HAD A DARKNESS INSIDE ME THAT WASN'T ACCEPTED IN A LOT OF PLACES"

AMALIE BRUUN



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ANATOMY OF A ROCKSTAR

JUSTIN HAWKINS THE DARKNESS

HOTEL HACKS, LOWESTOFT CHILLI AND QUEEN... JUSTIN'S AN EXPERT ON ALL THREE!

fig.1

IF I COULD BE IN ANY TV SHOW IT WOULD BE...

"Knight Rider. I love the idea of driving through some boxes in the name of an emphatic entrance. Dukes Of Hazzard could be good as well. To be honest, anything with an iconic car is cool, really. But Knight Rider has the Hoff and KITT, the talking car. Hoff needs a co-pilot, and I think I'm the guy for that job."

fig.2

THE THING I AM MOST SCARED OF IS...

"Journalists! No... to be honest, the only thing that scares me is myself. I've often been my own worst enemy. Well, these days I'm my best friend, but it's definitely a complicated relationship! When I look in the mirror I don't recognise myself at the moment, because I'm adjusting to not having a moustache for the first time in six years. I didn't realise how big it was!"

fig.3

I GET GEEKY ABOUT...

"Photography. I was actually doing a blog for a while, but then it kinda became another narcissistic web thing. I wanted people to look at my pictures but they weren't interested unless there were pictures of me. I actually studied Media Studies at Lowestoft College, specialising in photography. It's a big part of my life, taking pictures. My favourite photographer is Simon Emmett – people call him a fashion photographer, but I call him a *lensman*."

fig.4

MY FAVOURITE CATSUIT IS...

"A special one made for me by Dior, for when we headlined Reading Festival in 2004. It was a sequined number made by Hedi Slimane, who is a very famous fashion designer. A lot of the rock'n'roll clothes are down to him – he's really dictated what the rock silhouette should be. He loved The Darkness, so he made me one for Reading. I really liked my Bagpuss one, which was pink with white stripes. There was a black partner look to that which went missing in bizarre circumstances. It's out there somewhere!"



fig.5

THE KEY TO LOOKING YOUNG IS...

"Expensive plastic surgery! Fine, deftly applied make-up and vast quantities of Swiss face cream. It's gotta be Swiss! Also, a vegan diet and lots of exercise. I do lots of things, but I'm mostly into running these days. I've been thinking about making my Runkeeper app public so fans of the band can run with me and compare. It'd be nice to get a community going. When you go out on tour, you get to see all these really cool places, and having a run is often the best way of getting the vibe of a place."

fig.6

THE THING I MUST HAVE ON TOUR...

"...Would have been my moustache wax. I still carry it, actually, but I can't tell you why. So, at the moment, it's my laptop. I'm very fortunate to have experienced the top level of touring, and staying in hotels like The Ritz, you get the same thing every time. So, even from city to city, you always feel at home. At the level we are now, you never know what you're gonna get. So, we throw shawls over lamps like Keith Richards did. That and get the laptop out. Mine's a fancy one that lights up, so the room ambience changes. You can get your tunes on, even if you're in a Travelodge!"

fig.7

MY GREATEST CULINARY SKILL IS...

"A mixed bean chilli. Your brains will be blown by a whole host of different beans, some potatoes, a secret blend of spices, garlic, onion and chillies. There would be stupendously powerful Thai chillies to give it an oriental flavour. So, what you're getting is the best of Lowestoft, South America, Italy and Southeast Asia. Which I think is sort of good. If you ignore the North and South Poles, you're looking at an international dish that's as hot as the equator."

fig.8

THE FIRST SONG I EVER WROTE WAS CALLED...

"Beatrice. I think it was inspired a lot by Tango In The Night-era Fleetwood Mac. It sounded like one song in particular that went, 'Caroiiiine' [That'll be Caroline – Mac-Ed]. The lyrical structure was lifted from that, so I sang about a girl that likes hats and stuff. But I didn't know who it was going to be about, and Princess Beatrice had just been born. It was a name in my head, so it made sense to write it about the newly born princess."

fig.9

MY DESERT ISLAND DISC WOULD BE...

"A Night At The Opera by Queen [1975], in the name of true musical diversity and so on. I think it's because it takes you in so many different directions; there's stuff on there that's super-heavy in terms of emotional content, stuff that's super-playful and everything in between. It has songs that were sung by other members of the band that were just as great as the Freddie ones. They do everything from opera to rock to folk to seaside music!"



BRITISH LION

PLUS: THE RAVEN AGE
SQUARE, HARLOW. 29.07.15

KKKKK

IRON MAIDEN LEGEND'S SIDE-PROJECT INVADES TINY VENUE. THIS MEANS ROAR!

WORDS: GEORGE GARNER PHOTOS: CHRIS CASEY

→ FELL OUT BOY. Sex Pissed Dolls. The, um, ex-pianist of The Jim Jones Revue. Just some of the bands you'll typically find inhabiting Harlow's micro-venue, The Square. Imagine how incongruous it is, then, to see Iron Maiden's Steve Harris here entering through its fire exit, walking through the crowd and hopping onstage. Last month he explained this intimate British Lion tour is his way of keeping the rust out until Maiden resume touring, but there's more to it than that. Their 2012 debut may have divided some Maiden fans – "it's rock, not metal, blah waaaah blah" etc. – but Steve Harris believes in this band. So much so, in fact, he's willing to start from the bottom and slog their way up. He doesn't need to be playing venues this small. But he is. If tonight were judged on integrity alone, the K-rating system would implode.

Speaking of integrity, tonight proves that specific virtue runs in the blood. Support comes from The Raven Age, who feature Steve's son, George, on guitar. Tight, dynamic and packing an endearing British sense of humour between songs, they're devout believers in true metalcore. All bruising riffs and skybound choruses, they're a brilliant warm-up.

When it comes to the headliners, it's important to note that this isn't just a case of Goliath beating David to death. Let's not forget, when fans and bands are sardined together, people often feel more self-conscious than wild. There's no such awkwardness here. As well as playing their songs with real intensity – each member mouthing every line – British Lion are clearly having the time of their lives. It's infectious. Add to this Steve bass-gunning punters at point-blank range and it's no wonder everyone's *woah-oh-ing* in The Chosen Ones.

What transpires is a show that rewards Steve's faith in this band. Notably, you'd be hard pressed to find someone who's grown more as a frontman of late than Richie Taylor. At their 2013 O2 Academy Islington gig he cut a somewhat nervous figure. But not any more. When he's not belting out *This Is My God*, he's confidently proclaiming that "there's still so much more to come from this band". He's right, too. Of all the new songs aired, *Spitfire*'s possibly their best yet.

In both theory and execution it's a special set. There's even a nagging sadness as they close with *Eyes Of The Young*. "I hear this place isn't going to last much longer," says Richie, "which is a fucking shame." Yes, by year's end The Square will follow the likes of Kingston's The Peel and Manchester's Roadhouse and close its doors. Fucking shame, indeed. Especially after British Lion just proved that our smallest venues sometimes offer the biggest memories.

RATINGS

KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

WHALE
OIL
BEEF
HOOKED



Steve was still laughing at that bleedin' shirt...



Steve didn't know where to begin in the epic pat-a-cake segment of the show



It was a dead-heat in British Lion's 'Best mane' competition



THIS IS MY GOD
LOST WORLDS
KARMA KILLER
FATHER LUCIFER
THE BURNING
SPITFIRE
THE CHOSEN ONES
THESE ARE THE HANDS
BIBLE BLACK
GUINEAS AND CROWNS
LAST CHANCE
US AGAINST THE WORLD
WORLD WITHOUT HEAVEN
JUDAS
LET IT ROLL
EYES OF THE YOUNG

Only one of Steve and Richie Taylor elected to visit Harlow's barber shops



The Square: more of a trapezoid, actually

STAR SHOUT! STEVE HARRIS (BASS)

IT MUST BE NICE TO PLAY A GIG AND REALLY BE ABLE TO SEE THE PEOPLE?

"I haven't played clubs for 30 years or more! I don't know – a long, long time. I've been loving it. Obviously I'm lucky because I can do both. It's great. Right now I haven't played for a year, so I'm raring to get out and play. We haven't got a lot of room up there, either! It's always a bit intimidating when you can't turn around. In fact, we took one mic stand away because it was taking up too much room!"

YOU'VE PLAYED SO MANY SHOWS WITH MAIDEN. ARE YOU HALF EXPECTING TO SEE EDDIE ONSTAGE WITH BRITISH LION?

"No, all I'm thinking about, really, is trying to avoid knocking someone out!"

YEAH, YOU'RE DEFINITELY PLAYING SOME TINY PLACES ON THIS TOUR!

"I was a bit miffed we couldn't play Northern Ireland and down in Cornwall, but we couldn't get the venues when we needed them, so that didn't work out. We're playing places that no-one else plays, and we'll see if people turn up. People moan if you don't go to their town, so now we're going to loads of places!"

HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE PLAYING IN HARLOW?

"My kids still live around here, and George, my son, has played here before. My daughter Lauren played here, and my nephew Joe, the drum tech on this tour, he's played in his band here before,

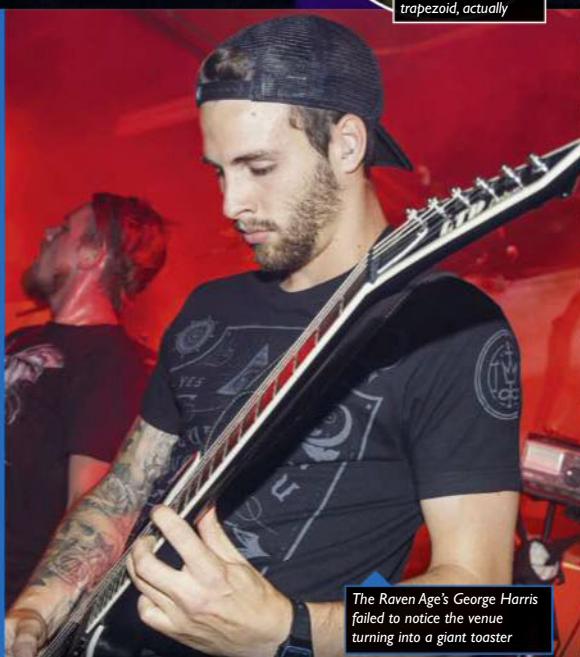
so I thought, 'I want to bloody play here!'"

YOUR SON, GEORGE, IS IN THE RAVEN AGE. IT MUST BE NICE TO GO ON TOUR WITH HIM?

"Having him on tour is great, and I love what he's doing. It's fantastic! I don't have to lie or say whatever about it – I just love the songs, I love what they're doing. It's the best of both worlds, really."

SO, WHAT'S NEXT FOR BRITISH LION?

"We want to make a new album – we've got quite a few new songs already. We played a couple on the last tour. I think they're really good songs. It's such an exciting time for me right now. I don't know why I keep doing more and more things but you gotta do it, haven't you? I love it. I love that I can play clubs and big places. It's great."



The Raven Age's George Harris failed to notice the venue turning into a giant toaster



Whatever was on Tim's
mic, it really stunk

RISE AGAINST

PLUS: KILLSWITCH ENGAGE, LETLIVE.
CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK. 28.07.15

KKKK

CHICAGO'S GREATEST PUNK EXPORT THROW A
MASSIVE PARTY IN NEW YORK'S BIGGEST PARK

WORDS: JOHN TRUMAN

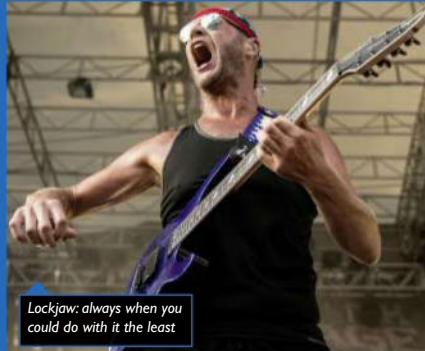
PHOTOS: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

■ FESTIVALS IN cities are a killer idea. No traipsing through miles of countryside to get to an out-of-the-way site, no sacrificing personal hygiene, and you're, y'know, near places that sell real food. So, Central Park's SummerStage Festival is onto a winner already, especially as the temperature is the sort that could cook a pizza. And that's before any of the bands take to the stage. It's letlive. who are first to break the late-afternoon tranquillity of New York's leafiest space. Jason Aalon Butler appears to be auditioning for a job in ZZ Top with his ever-growing beard, but his face-fuzz has also made him even more feral. Like James Brown with an ASBO, his violent dancing is full of equal parts soul and trouble, jerking madly as the band tear through Muther and a killer unnamed new tune.

Just as deadly, but with a more blunt-force attack, Killswitch Engage are frickin' deadly today. Guitarist Adam D has reined in his notoriously unfunny stand-up routine of late, which is good, because his jokes were crap, and it means songs like Rose Of Sharyn and the epic My Last Serenade sound even more mighty.

Rise Against don't do stand-up. They do nice hellos, big punk rock and heart-gripping emotion,

and that's just perfect. The Great Die-Off, Help Is On The Way and Give It All show the city that helped birth punk that it doesn't need to be all snot and scruff – just as crucial is a brain and a heart, something frontman Tim McIlrath bears frequently tonight. That they mix their concerns for the world with some of the best punk rock of this century only serves to confirm what smart folk know already: when it comes to powerful emotion and power-chords, nobody does it better.



Lockjaw: always when you
could do with it the least

SÓLSTAFIR

PLUS: DIALECTS, BOSPHORUS

AUDIO, GLASGOW. 29.07.15

KKK

WINTER IS COMING: ICELANDIC POST-ROCKERS
BRING WINTER TO SUMMERTIME GLASGOW

■ "WE COME from the land of ice and snow," smirks Sólstafir mainman Addi Tryggvason, "From the midnight sun, where the hot springs flow!" It's simultaneously the evening's funniest and most tellingly otherworldly moment. Because, in case you needed them to spell it out in Led Zeppelin lyrics, Iceland's Sólstafir are basically a frozen mountain set to music. If Glasgow post-sludge newcomers Bosphorus and delirious instrumental maestros Dialects have already set the beautiful sonic scene, the Icelandic headliners absolutely rule it. With leather tassels, denim shirts, chest tattoos and plaited pigtail, the onstage aesthetic matches the off-kilter musical meld of Viking, black and post-metal sensibilities. Odes like the banjo-infused Ótta lit and crash and subside into bottomless reservoirs of squalling feedback. It's like metal songs written for soundtracking a National Geographic clip of the blackened tundra and glacial sprawl of their Arctic homeland. Silence is demanded more than once to construct fragments of crystalline majesty, destined to be smashed mere seconds later. And if more of the metallic fire that marked the Sólstafir of old might've happily broken the snowbound uniformity, closing salvo Fjara and Goddess Of The Ages confirms "barren beauty" as a dish best served cold.

SAM LAW

GREEN DAY'S AMERICAN IDIOT

ARTS THEATRE, LONDON. 22.07.15

KKKK

THE BAY AREA TRIO TREAT LONDON TO
ANOTHER NIGHT AT THE OPERA (SORT OF)

■ IN DECEMBER 2012, the original Broadway cast brought Green Day's American Idiot musical to life in London. And the only people who didn't enjoy it were those with a deep-seated hatred for both Green Day and musicals. Now, finally, the UK's got its own version. While the songs are exactly the same, and the script pretty similar, the Arts Theatre's stage is *tiny*, making American Idiot: UK edition more *Phoenix Nights* than Broadway blockbuster. Especially when it comes to the stage set, which looks like it's been spray-painted by a gang in a big hurry. You soon forget that, though, when the cast take to the stage. Stars include Amelia Lily (Whatsername) – who has a voice made for theatres 50 times the size of this one, and is strangely reminiscent of Jenna McDougall at times – and ex-Son Of Dork dude Steve Rushton (Will), who sounds so wonderful it's a wonder he isn't playing the lead. St. Jimmy is portrayed by a Tré Cool lookalike with a shit A7X chest piece, although he's a little less stand-out. It's an impressive show considering the space constraints, and the choreography comes up with clever ways to have all three stories (heroin addict Johnny, armed forces amputee Tunny and waste-of-space dad Will) play out simultaneously. No, it's not quite up to Broadway standards, but it's a damn good substitute. PS. there's no interval, so go easy on the preshow drinky-poo.

JENNYFER J. WALKER

D.R.I.

PLUS: ENDLESS SWARM, CIRCLE OF TYRANTS

AUDIO, GLASGOW. 22.07.15

KKK

IRREPRESSIBLE CROSSOVER CREW MOSH
GLASGOW INTO A DIRTY ROTTEN MESS

■ CHAOS! IT'S an overused exaggeration. But as legendary hardcore mob Dirty Rotten Imbeciles

detonate beerily into the packed Audio tonight, there's no other way to articulate the unhinged bedlam spilling out the fire exits and onto the vomit-strewn street. Firing the fuse, local hard-nuts Circle Of Tyrants and Endless Swarm pound out laser-cut thrash at lightning speed. Regardless, they're eclipsed by the headliners' 100-minute marathon. Preparing to discharge their first fresh material in two decades, D.R.I. power through a mammoth set featuring brawling classics like Who Am I?, Slumlord, Anonymity, Mad Man and Acid Rain. Everyone duly goes bananas, with hundreds of increasingly reckless stage-dives. ("9.7!" choruses bassist Harald Oimoen as one lunatic double-flip corkscrews onto his neck, "you lost 0.3 for the landing!"), a nonstop, venue-wide pit, gallons of sweat and far more spilled beer. Several punters even knock themselves cold and get dragged out like slabs of meat. 'You lose, I win!' screeches frenzied closer The Five Year Plan. Wrong! On nights like this, everyone wins.

SAM LAW

MISFITS

PLUS: JD AND THE FDCS, CREEPER

02 ACADEMY ISLINGTON, LONDON. 01.08.15

KKK

PUNK'S BIGGEST GOULS CELEBRATE THEIR BEGINNINGS IN LONDON

■ "IT'S FUNNY, I wrote this album when I was 18 years old," reminisces the now-56-year-old Jerry Only – frontman of Misfits, pioneer of the devilock – as his band fire through The Static Age. In full. Bang-bang-bang, as will become standard for the night. But before Misfits – completed by Jerry Jr. on guitar and Eric "Chupacabra" Arce on drums – rattle off around 40 of their ghoulish punk anthems, Creeper



What's got a devilock and loads of bones? THIS GUY!

show everyone what the new wave of New Grave look and sound like. In good hands? Only as good as a baseball catcher who's put a GPS in the ball with destination set to 'glove'. Then it's JD And The FDCs with some northern punk and a cover of Alkaline Trio's Private Eye. Much like Nirvana's smiley face and Ramones' logo, Misfits' Crimson Ghost mascot is so iconic that it's worn by people who had never even acknowledged an Astro Zombie, let alone had a Ghoul's Night Out. But it's fine, as tonight everyone

in attendance sings along to Die, Die My Darling. Last Caress' heart-warming lyrics are shouted back at a higher volume than the lines 'I've got something to say, I killed your baby today, and it doesn't matter much to me as long as it's dead' should really be heard. All those people asking 'So, who's even in the band now? Danzig? Jerry? Doyle?' are given the answer: at the end of the day, does it really matter? 'Mommy, can I go out and kill tonight?' Now that's a better question.

RYAN COOPER

PHOTO: ANDREW TITMUS



Tying your dreads to your laces: always a pain

Would the sleeping drummer please raise his hand...

STAR SHOUT!

VINNIE FIORELLO (DRUMS)

IS IT WEIRD TO BE IN READING AND NOT BE PLAYING THE FESTIVAL?

"You know, I think it's the first time I've ever been in the town and not been headed to that goddamn field! It's been good, though!"

YOU'VE BEEN A BAND FOR OVER 20 YEARS NOW, WHAT DO YOU PUT YOUR LASTING POPULARITY DOWN TO?

"I think it's very simple, really: we put the time in and then we come on tour! It's not like we play then no-one sees us for a year or two – we continue to come and have fun!"

LESS THAN JAKE

PLUS: RANDOM HAND

SUB 89, READING. 30.07.15

KKKK

PARP-LIFE! SKA VETERANS ROLL BACK THE YEARS IN READING

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE **PHOTOS: CHRIS CASEY**

■ IF SKA-PUNK has fallen a little out of favour in recent years, then what tonight's sardine-tin packed venue proves is that for a skanking, sweat-doused hardcore, the power of the horns is still very, very real. To that end, soon-to-be-defunct Yorkshire mob Random Hand inject a frankly lunatic energy into proceedings with their punk/ska/meta/kitchen-sink mash-up – and based on the sheer amount of beer being spilt by dancing punters, they'll be much missed.

Of course, Less Than Jake boast a back catalogue which is second to none in this game, and as the nostalgic opening refrains of Sugar In Your Gas Tank leap from the speakers, the mood in the room flips from 'decent evening out' to 'greatest night of our goddamned lives' in a heartbeat. Admittedly, the focus of tonight's set is primarily on material which is over a decade old, but that hardly seems to matter when All My Best Friends Are Metalheads' chorus induces the most joyous bedlam from every corner of the room and bassist Roger Lima is bolting about with a beaming grin that could light up the Grand Canyon at midnight. Sure, LTJ might not be very cool or on-trend these days, but if flailing about like a loon to a saxophone solo in checkered shoes is wrong, then we don't even wanna be right.



LIFE'S NOT OUT TO GET YOU (HOPELESS)

KKKKK

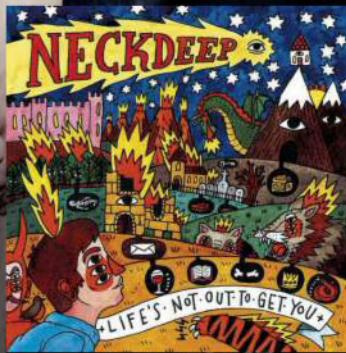
WREXHAM'S FINEST'S NEW ONE – A GREAT ALBUM? YES. AN IMPORTANT ONE? VERY MUCH SO

THE PROBLEM with pop-punk, in 2015 at least, is too many proponents of the genre ultimately end up favouring the pop over the punk. That Neck Deep are a, not quite solitary then certainly endangered, exception to this rule is principally the reason we at Kerrang! have been so excited about their existence from the moment they came roaring onto the scene back in 2012. Fierce as hell, one of not many like them; basically what we're saying is that Neck Deep are the pop-punk equivalent of a lion. You can have that for the CD stickers if you'd like, lads.

Of course, such edge would mean nothing if the songs weren't good. Thankfully, for the lion's share – no pun intended – these ones are great. Opener *Citizens Of Earth* barks its intent to thrill, right from the off, it benefiting – as is all the record – from Jeremy McKinnon's crunchy production, while *Kali Ma* is akin to Sum 41 drowning in a bath of *Sunny Delight*.

Does *Sunny Delight* still exist? Googles... Apparently it does. A little kid actually turned orange after drinking too much of the stuff? Okay, bad example. But there is effervesce in these songs unlike anything you've heard the genre bust out in decades. On *Serpents* – to these ears the album's best song – fans of *New Found Glory*, *blink* and even the late, great *No Use For A Name* will be delighted.

It's possible, if you really, really think hard about it, to be irritated by Neck Deep, on account on them singing like Tom DeLonge, dressing like Bart Simpson, yet hailing from... Wrexham. Thankfully this irritation is largely dismissed by the likes of *Lime St.* – one of many songs as authentically suburban as plastic bottles of cider and boarded-up high streets. In the excellent *The Beach Is For Lovers* (*Not Lonely Losers*), one of many PMA-laced songs that deal with themes of making the most of life, singer Ben Barlow even references his 'old man'. NOFX this is not. Chances are, if



you're a contemporary British teenager, *Life's Not Out To Get You* will feel like home.

Impressively, for a band just two albums in, three years old, the five-piece have already developed subtlety in their songwriting, best demonstrated by the quite beautiful *December*. Then there's the artwork – a completely unique aesthetic created by illustrator Ricardo Cavolo in tandem with Ben that spills over into a short comic that comes with the record. It all proves the following: that Neck Deep are the most fully formed British rock band to rise to prominence in ages. And in *Life's Not Out To Get You* they haven't as much made a record as created a world. It's a place we love. We think you will do, too.

DOWNLOAD: *Rock Bottom*, *Citizens Of Earth*, *December*.

FOR FANS OF: *Green Day*, *blink-182*, *New Found Glory*.

JAMES McMAHON

"THIS IS OUR STICKS AND STONES!"

BEN BARLOW



THE INSIDER BEN BARLOW (VOCALS)

LIFE'S NOT OUT TO GET YOU IS BEING TOUTED AS MAKE-OR-BREAK FOR NECK DEEP. DO YOU SEE IT AS SUCH?

"Definitely! I think in time this could really be seen as the Neck Deep record, y'know, like our version of [New Found Glory classic] Sticks And Stones. I feel like we've made a record that I'm very sure our fans will like, and that I'm confident other

people who have maybe dismissed us in the past will take a lot from."

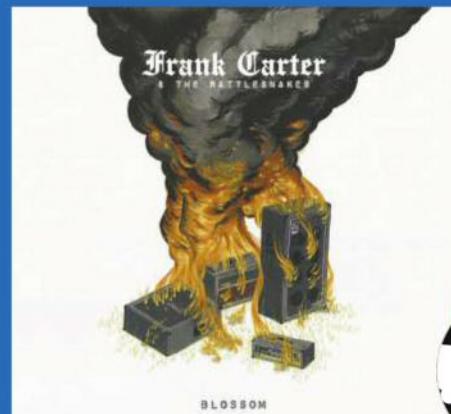
YOU RECORDED WITH ADTR'S JEREMY MCKINNON AND PRODUCER ANDREW WADE. HOW WAS IT IN THE STUDIO?

"It was really great! Those guys are both extremely cool and saw right from the very beginning what we were trying to do. We worked on a few songs together, and their expertise really helped shape them into the best stuff we've ever done. They're really talented and

it was a pleasure to work with them."

SO, WHAT ARE THE AMBITIONS FROM HERE, THEN?

"To go be as big as we can be! Like, we want to headline Wembley and do all that stuff. I don't know if a pop-punk band will ever be as big as, say, blink-182 or Green Day ever again, but we don't see why there should be a limit on where we can go. I really believe this is the album to start really stepping us up, and we're all excited for the hard work to really begin."



FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

BLOSSOM (INTERNATIONAL DEATH CULT)

KKKKK

THE WATFORD WOLF IS BACK, AND HE WANTS TO BITE YOUR LEGS

1 JUGGERNAUT

YES! There are few sounds rock fans have wanted to hear like Frank Carter roar again. Starved in recent times of the former Gallows man's completely unique, uniquely thrilling rasp, he now appears to have added a Public Image Ltd Lydon-esque whine to his arsenal.

2 TROUBLE

Also, YES! This is a great song. Not that Frank's last outfit, Pure Love, didn't have tunes, but they often sounded like ones borrowed from '90s indie bandwagon-chasers Shed Seven. This is an atomic bomb of melody.

3 FANGS

'I want to feel your teeth against my skin', rages Frank. Sort of regret making that Shed Seven jibe now.

4 DEVIL INSIDE ME

Top three things about this song: 1) It's a reminder that Frank actually *singing* is still a thing of greatness. 2) It sounds like it was recorded in a haunted well. 3) The riff is nicked from the Doctor Who theme tune.

5 PARADISE

An interesting observation: Frank sings the

words 'broken bones' like he's actually singing the word 'Pokémon'. He also spits in this song, before the middle eight. Filthy. But dead cool.

6 LOSS

A note about The Rattlesnakes: there's some stunning playing going on here. The drums in particular sound like a grandfather clock hooked up to Slayer's backline.

7 BEAUTIFUL DEATH

The best song on the album. How good? Grey Britain good. And Frank sings it like he's being burnt alive.

8 ROTTEN BLOSSOM

... Wherein Frank channels the spirit of Sartre and asks all the big questions. What happens when we die? Why haven't I been making music like this for the last couple of years? Etc...

9 PRIMARY EXPLOSIVE

Find us a more joyful sound than the 'Woo' that boots this song off, and we'll show you a wasted quest.

10 I HATE YOU

Rumours of Frank Carter's creative demise have been greatly exaggerated. Don't call it a comeback. Call it a rebirth.

THIS ALBUM IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF...



25%
Screaming



25%
Rage



25%
Great songwriting



25%
Star power

REVIEWS

KKKK = CLASSIC KKKK = EXCELLENT KKK = GOOD KK = AVERAGE K = POOR

BITERS

ELECTRIC BLOOD (EARACHE)

KKKK

CHORUS-MAD ROCK'N'ROLLERS DRAW BLOOD WITH FANTASTIC DEBUT



■ YOU RISK the odd playground incident when you allow old school to meet new school. Not here, though – Atlanta's Biters know their territory, having sharpened their teeth (sorry...) via several stonking, fun EPs. This, however – their first long-player – annihilates the buzz that's been surrounding the Noel Fielding lookalikes of late. It captures the joy of early Kiss and Aerosmith records but without the lousy, lo-fi production. It kicks out retro-cool jams like The Kids Ain't Alright and 1975 with a Ramones-imprinted street-gang mentality. Above all, there's real love for the soul of rock'n'roll flowing throughout its uniformly ace songs, and it makes Biters damn-near impossible to dislike.

DOWNLOAD: Low Lives In Hi Definition.

FOR FANS OF: Aerosmith, Ramones,

The Wildhearts.

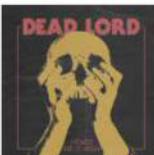
STEVE BEEBEE

DEAD LORD

HEADS HELD HIGH (CENTURY MEDIA)

KKK

RETRO-TASTIC SWEDES CONTINUE TO MINE THE SABBATH RIFF ARCHIVE



■ WITH NEW albums from Graveyard, Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats, Kadavar and now Dead Lord, if you're after rock that sounds like something off a lost tape from 1972, this summer's got you covered. So much so, in fact, that we're fast approaching peak-retro. There's nothing wrong with the way Dead Lord's vintage riffs echo from their vintage amps – actually, they're immensely good at it – but there's only so many times you can wear the same pair of flares before they start to smell a bit less than fresh. But if you work on the basis that you can never have too many half-inched Black Sabbath riffs, Heads Held High is a retro-tastic treat that will make you shout 'Oh Lord, yeah!'.

DOWNLOAD: Ruins.

FOR FANS OF: Black Sabbath, Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats.

NICK RUSKELL

STRAY FROM THE PATH

SUBLIMINAL CRIMINALS (SUMERIAN)

KKKK

LONG ISLAND HARDCORE MOB GET SICK OF EVERYTHING ON SEVENTH ALBUM



LYRIC OF THE WEEK

'Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah, oh oh'. Okay, on paper it's not quite Shakespeare, but since when could you sing along to The Bard? Exactly. Which makes Don Broco better than Shakespeare. Sorry, Bill... **BAND:** Don Broco **SONG:** Superlove **ALBUM:** Automatic



SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

Like Dr Who, Papa Emeritus regenerates with each Ghost album. This time around, it appears to have taken a turn for the weird, as according to the cover of their new Meliora LP, he is now a cathedral.

Which poses the question of how the hell the band are going to tour this album. Because it ain't cheap, moving ecclesiastical buildings around. They don't fit in luggage racks.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

THERE'S A PRICE ON YOUR HEAD, ENTER SHIKARI Madness, right here. But what do you expect when Shikari have the people behind Ren & Stimpy animating them?

I'll show you the cover-up'. They're certainly not ones to dodge a hot potato, either; and spuds don't come more scorched than the U.S. healthcare system, a topic tackled on Outbreak, which rages that 'The elite get you hooked in a chemical state'. Of course, potent topics and profound ideas are relegated to mere placebos if the music that's backing them isn't what the doctor ordered. Thankfully, Subliminal Criminals finds SFTP on typically abrasive form. There's no spoonful of sugar to help this medicine go down – but instead a large ladle full of bile. Open wide.

DOWNLOAD: Outbreak.

FOR FANS OF: Architects, RATM.

JAMES HICKIE

PATENT PENDING

ARMAGEDDON (RUDE)

KK

GOD-AWFUL NEW EP FROM APPALING AMERICAN POP-PUNKERS



■ THERE'S NOT exactly a shortage of pop-punk right now, so there's very little reason to subject yourself to the abominable version touted by Long Island's

Patent Pending. Their geeky schtick lacks the charm of Weezer (or even Wheatus) and Brighter could pass for charisma vacuums Maroon 5. And they manage to sound gimmicky without having any actual gimmicks, apart from the deliberately wack hip-hop stylings of We're Getting Weird. At least the latter tune is almost so bad it's good. At one point, frontman Joe Ragosta faux-raps 'Handed me a microphone? Big mistake!'. Well, at least he got that right.

DOWNLOAD: We're Getting Weird.

FOR FANS OF: Sum 41, Wheatus.

OLLY THOMAS

KAGOULE

URTH (EARACHE)

KKKK

SHIT NAME, FANTASTIC DEBUT FROM NOISY NOTTINGHAM TRIO



■ KAGOULE ANORAKS already know this Nottingham three-piece from a slew of stonking singles. It's one thing impressing in three-

minute bursts and another holding the attention over a full-length debut, but Urth captivates throughout. Zip up and pull those drawstrings tight, because it's cloudy with a chance of curveballs as they mix up fat grunge riffs with pulsing indie-rock weirdness. Like Sonic Youth or the Pixies, they're adept at planting pop hooks in the midst of burgeoning swells of noise, but they also know not every song has to be an off-kilter anthem. They're just as good at crafting dark, fractured mood music and, considering Kagoule are still in their teens, the potential here is terrifying.

DOWNLOAD: Glue, Empty Mug.

FOR FANS OF: Sonic Youth, Nirvana, Allusondrugs.

PAUL TRAVERS

SOULFLY

ARCHANGEL (NUCLEAR BLAST)

KKK

THE CLAN CAVALERA RETURN. AND GUESS WHAT – THEY'RE STILL METAL!



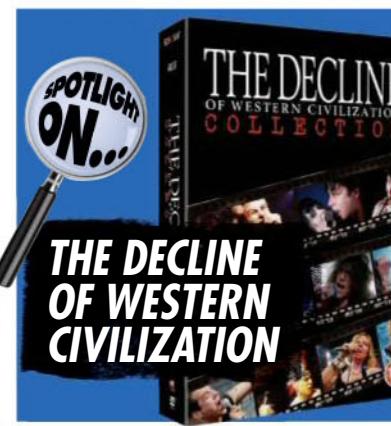
■ BY NOW, Max Cavalera is bested only by Ozzy or Judas Priest frontman and official Metal God Rob Halford in the 'lifelong service to heavy music' stakes.

It's hardly surprising, though, is it? Between Soulfly and Sepultura, the Brazil nut's been hammering at the anvil for three decades. And not only is he a master of metal and all its noises, the bloke just doesn't seem to know how to do anything else. And thank God for that. Because the spirit of Max – just as much as, if not, on occasion, more than, the music – is what makes Soulfly one of the most reliable ear-thumps in the world. And here, as ludicrously brilliant as it is fiendishly simple, we have straight out of the traps a song called We Sold Our Souls To Metal. 'Metal flows through my veins / I wanna rage, I am insane' – it's not a power ballad. Elsewhere, Ishtar Rising and Bethlehem's Blood rage and froth with all the metallic fury you want from Max, with big, bouncing riffs sounding like JCB's made of rubber. It's fucking fantastic, both musically and as a display of one man's ever-burning passion for the music he can't help making. Max, Soulfly, we salute you. Never change.

DOWNLOAD: We Sold Our Souls To Metal, Ishtar Rising.

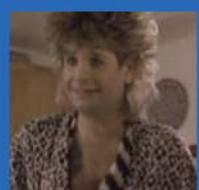
FOR FANS OF: Sepultura, Machine Head, Lamb Of God.

NICK RUSKELL



AS FRUSTRATING as it is that Wayne's World director Penelope Spheeris' The Decline Of Western Civilization documentaries have long been out of print, the wait has turned her movies into time capsules. Here, released for the first time on DVD, and with commentary by Dave Grohl, you're offered a glimpse into musical worlds that simply do not exist any more.

1981's THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION (KKKK) is fascinating, offering the viewer a look at the very roots of American punk, and worth watching for the





1 FALL OUT BOY – STAYIN' OUT ALL NIGHT
Wentz and co have got all remixed up with their touring partner, rapper Wiz Khalifa. Don't do it with Professor Green for the UK tour, lads. Please...

2 TRIVIUM – SILENCE IN THE SNOW
Now this, this is what the doctor ordered. The metal doctor, anyway. Your GP's opinion may differ.

3 MOTÖRHEAD – ELECTRICITY
Imagine if the 'Head provided your electricity. They'd supply a million warts of rock power.

4 MAYDAY PARADE – KEEP IN MIND...
The full title is Keep In Mind, Transmogrification Is A New Technology. One to shout for live...

5 IN SEARCH OF SUN – ELEVATION
FM-ish alt.rock? Search no longer!

RICHA

INHALE EXHALE (VENN)

KKKK

YOUNG HEREFORD ALT.ROCKERS BRING DOOM AND GLOOM TO SUMMER



Hereford alt.rockers Richa have conjured with their second doomy EP, Inhale Exhale. Opener Inhale sets the gloomy mood, as a grim, shoegazey soundscape surrounds you and thudding drums lead you into the dark on Force Fed. The vocals make the atmosphere no less lonely, with tales of paternal relationships gone wrong, lost religion and false prophets. Final track Exhale is exactly that – a breathy release of tension. Short and exhausting but hugely impressive, Inhale Exhale was made to be consumed in one breath – as a whole record, sitting alone with the lights off when all feels lost.

DOWNLOAD: Exhale.

FOR FANS OF: Nothing, Vennart.

HANNAH EWENS

DEIPHAGO

INTO THE EYE OF SATAN (HELLS HEADBANGERS)

KKK

VISIONS OF HELL FROM PULVERIZING FILIPINO BLACK METAL POWER TRIO



CRIKEY, SATAN'S gonna have a hell of a headache if this lot are heading into his peepers. With drums like a traffic accident falling down stairs, a morass of filth masquerading as a guitar sound, and vocals which are indecipherable when they're not growling 'Satan!', it's safe to assume these Filipino wreckheads haven't decided that their fourth album is the time to go mainstream. If spiked leather gauntlets are an essential part of your wardrobe, this will be your favourite album of the year. If they're not, you'll feel like someone puked black vomit right into your mouth. Lovely, horrible stuff.

DOWNLOAD: Red Dragon Of Chaos.

FOR FANS OF: Hellhammer, Behemoth.

OLLY THOMAS

killer live footage of Black Flag alone. But there's a reason why **PART II: THE METAL YEARS (KKKKK)**

has gone down in history. Focusing on the Sunset Strip in 1987, it's a glimpse into the world of glam metal at its moronic height. With no sense of irony, it's like a real Spinal Tap, as a parade of no-name glam tarts big themselves up for the camera. There's also



a charming interview with W.A.S.P. guitarist Chris Holmes, pissed out of his head in a swimming pool, while his mother looks on. It's enough to make Ozzy – interviewed in

a tiger-print dressing gown while making the worst breakfast ever – look sensible. An essential classic. **PART III (KKK)** – made in '98 but unseen 'til now – is good, too, featuring the gutter punks of the '90s. But, really, you want this for the second instalment, for a long-distance look at how simultaneously ace and egregiously stupid metal can be. Absolutely essential.

WORDS: NICK RUSSELL

Coheed And Cambria

IN KEEPING SECRETS OF SILENT EARTH: 3

(EQUAL VISION, 2003)

CREATE A PROG-TASTIC COMIC BOOK WORLD, BECOME A CULT BAND, MEET YOUR WIFE. A GOOD DAY'S WORK...



BEFORE OCTOBER 7, 2003, if you'd asked someone what The Amory Wars were, they might have racked their brains for an historical event that occurred in the Mississippi city of the same name. All that would change when a pop-orientated prog-rock band from New York led by an affro'd dude, one Mr Claudio Sanchez, whose look didn't match the vocals that it emitted, released their second album into the world. Not only did they pique ears with their catchy yet complicated musical offerings, imaginations were also captured by the sci-fi story that was entwined within the album and future comic books – The Amory Wars. Like Forbidden Planet's dream house band injecting new life into the prog genre, Coheed would go on to release Good Apollo, I'm Burning Star IV... two years later – their biggest success to date, selling over a million copies worldwide. But to really get to the root of the story, we should go back to where it pretty much all started to lift off for Coheed – and with them set to perform the album in full at Hevy this weekend, what better time to root around the genius mind of mainman Claudio Sanchez...

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT GOING INTO THE STUDIO?

CLAUDIO SANCHEZ (VOCALS/GUITAR):

"Recording that album, we were actually living in the studio – Travis [Steve, guitar] and I would sleep in the control room. I think around that time I was introduced to Queen's A Night At The Opera – I wasn't much of a fan of the band until Michael Birnbaum, the producer, introduced me to that record, and we'd go on drives and listen to the stuff – then I'd find I'd listen to it before I went to bed and I started to really understand the relationship of harmony. I think In Keeping Secrets... happens to be the first record where I started to explore the idea of harmony, and now I just use it all the time on Coheed records. I also met my wife around

that time, and she came and hung out in the studio with us for a while. It was the beginnings of our relationship, and now here we are in the parenting stage!"

THE ALBUM CARRIES ON THE STORY OF THE AMORY WARS – WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS PARTICULAR CHAPTER?

"This one is basically about The Crowing character, the son of Coheed and Cambria – he's now in his 20s and he learns about the fact that he is this being that potentially has the power to destroy everything. So, he really has to cope with that, and that's basically what the record and the story is about – all of this attention drawn to him and how he deals with it."

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE TRACKS OF JUST... NOTHING?

"I have no idea (laughs)! I was always a fan, as a consumer, of the records that had the bonus tracks... you always felt like you were getting something else, and that definitely spills into Coheed's DNA. So, I think that's why we did it – and, you know, 2113 happens to be the longest song on the record, so for it to be a bonus track is huge; it's like, 'Wow, that's a bonus track? It's like three songs in one!'"

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IN KEEPING SECRETS... LOOKING BACK NOW?

"It was just 10 times what we had experienced before. Because of songs like Blood Red Summer and A Favor House Atlantic, I think we started to exercise the idea of a more concise, pop-oriented rock tune. That being on there made people realise how big we could be, and definitely changed peoples' perspectives of what Coheed And Cambria were capable of doing."

Kerrang! Radio play it all at 10pm, August 13!

WORDS: RYAN COOPER



"I MET MY WIFE WHILE RECORDING IT!"
CLAUDIO SANCHEZ

MUST HAVES

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!



Cafe à deux could mean 'the shared coffee of two'. Which isn't a lot from a cup like this, really. It's a cool cup, though.

[£10 Plastichead.com](http://Plastichead.com)



Moments before the asteroid hit earth, this was happening. Which means this match was technically a draw.

[\\$15 \(£9.67\) Threadless.com](http://Threadless.com)



"DO I LOOK LIKE A COP?!" Funny you should ask, Batman, because no. No you don't.

[£8.99 Forbiddenplanet.com](http://Forbiddenplanet.com)



You're beautiful on the inside. You know why? Because all your organs are made of hugs. See?

[\\$15 \(£9.67\) Threadless.com](http://Threadless.com)



You'd expect every third word on a Game Of Thrones shirt to be 'Bastard'. Seems you'd be wrong...

[£13.50 Plastichead.com](http://Plastichead.com)



This is actually the skeleton of an ancient Sheffield metal fan, doomed to wait in limbo until Bring Me The Horizon's new album comes out. You may not think it's been that long, but he started his vigil in the year 3AD. That's what we got from this, anyway. The truth's probably different.

[£20 Horizonsupply.co](http://Horizonsupply.co)



The world of 2000 AD is an ugly one. See? This bloke looks like Satan's sketchy brother.

[£13.50 Plastichead.com](http://Plastichead.com)



If you're lucky, you'll get loads of Joffrey figures. That way you can punish the little sod over and over.

[£6.29 Forbiddenplanet.com](http://Forbiddenplanet.com)



Twenty One Pilots should do a shirt of 21 different Bruce Dickinsons after this one. You're welcome for the idea, lads.

[£13.50 Plastichead.com](http://Plastichead.com)



In keeping with the film's lore, you shouldn't get this bag wet. You shouldn't anyway: it's a bag, innit.

[£18.90 Dropdead.co](http://Dropdead.co)



Legend has it Beartooth's Caleb Shomo defeated a monster with a sword. Legend here meaning 'shirt'.

[£13.50 Plastichead.com](http://Plastichead.com)



Do not be deceived: these are not trainers, they are socks. Your eyes may fool you, though. Stupid, gullible eyes.

[£2.81 Findmeagift.co.uk](http://Findmeagift.co.uk)



That's no moon... it's a Death Star lamp. And we've checked, there's no trench with a hole in it down which rebel scum can fly or fire missiles into to blow it up. Design flaw, that would be.

[£19.99 Firebox.com](http://Firebox.com)



Metallica in comic form? YEAH-HEAH! This is ace, you'll really want to 'turn the page' etc. etc. \$3.99 (£2.57) Comicfleamarket.com



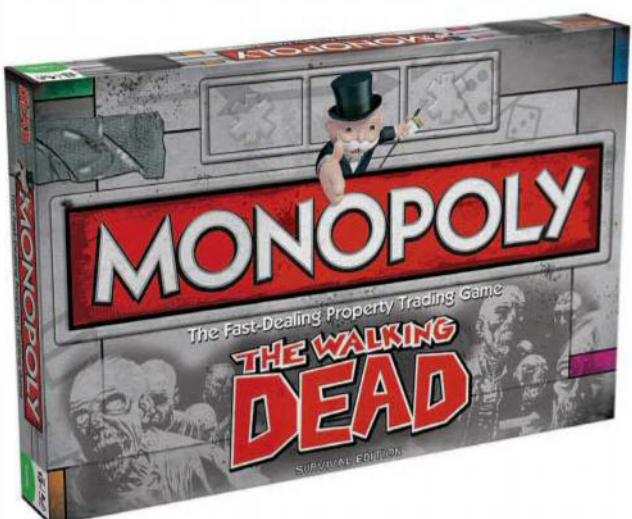
We don't know what Iwrestledabearonce think a person looks like, but this is it. £13.50 Plastichead.com



"No TV and no beer make Homer something, something..." Simpsons fanatics, this is your shirt. £13.16 Etsy.com



Maybe it's us, but we've been trying this shadow-puppetry all day and it still just looks like a rude gesture... £30 Dropdead.co



It was only a matter of time before The Walking Dead and Monopoly got mashed up. One is a grim tale of limbo, backstabbing and families fighting amongst themselves. The other is The Walking Dead. £25.99 Forbiddenplanet.com



Show your support for the slimiest bastard in the galaxy. But get the right size, or you won't Fett into it... £18 Plastichead.com



Little-known fact: Rise Against bloke Tim McIlrath is an expert in Roman numerals. By little-known, we mean 'bollocks'. £13.50 Plastichead.com

FOOTBALL SEASON'S NOT OVER!

...NO, IT'S KICKING OFF THIS WEEK! GOT YOUR SCARF AND A PIE? COOL, BUT YOU NEED ALL THIS AS WELL...

Soulfly wrote a song for the 1998 World Cup. Clearly, they are not rugby fans. They seem to have nicked Soulfly FC's colour scheme from Brazil's, but that's okay. Brazilian, isn't they? \$45 (£29.02) Maximumcavalerastore.com

You're there all, 'Dude, how am I going to play my four-hour compilation of hooligan anthems at this party?' We're all, 'Bro, plug your iPhone into this.' You'll have a ball. Ahem... \$59.99 (£38.69) Speakal.com

Big Balls. She's Got Balls. Ballbreaker.AC/DC must really love the ol' soccerball, if their titles are anything to go by. Definitely not double-entendres by the cunning linguists. No way. €95 (£66.83) Acdc.com



You could definitely do a better job than any player, manager or referee. Definitely. You're so good you can do it from the sofa in your pants, couldn't you? Yeah, you're doing a better job... From £34.99 Preorder at Amazon.co.uk

Love Maiden? Love West Ham? HEL-LO-OH! This is Steve Harris' signature bass, with his Hammers sticker and all. Perfect for Ham-mad metallers. Shit for dubstep-loving Gooners. £875 Andertons.co.uk

As we've seen from the bass, Maiden love football. So much so that they've done football shirts for just about any country you can think of. Five-a-side just got about 300 per cent more metal. £45 Ironmaiden.com

GIGS

DON'T MISS

HALESTORM

PLAYING A DECADES-OLD CLASSIC ALL THE WAY THROUGH? PFFT. LZZY AND CO ARE TREATING US TO THEIR STILL-WARM LAST ALBUM WHEN THEY'RE OVER!



HEY, LZZY! YOU'RE PLAYING THIS YEAR'S INTO THE WILD LIFE IN FULL – WHY SO SOON?

LZZY HALE (VOCALS/GUITAR):

"We're impatient! As people and bandmates, we have to be constantly switching it up to keep it interesting for ourselves. We ended up doing this record differently than the last two – it's not necessarily 'song-song-song'; we have a lot of interludes and each song is meant to go out of one and into the next for a reason. We've never actually done that before, or performed anything like that before. Maybe we're a little selfishly seeing if we can pull it off. It's gonna be fun!"

YOU TWEETED ABOUT HAVING AN ORGANISED YET MESSY WARDROBE. SO, HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO TAKE? ANY NECESSITIES?

"I've become quite the minimalist now! It didn't used to be that way – I used to be that person who had three bags full of stuff, and one bag was totally full of shoes! Now, one pair of stilettos, a pair of sneakers and a pair of boots is enough. You can do anything with all those things! It helps to be a little colour-coordinated, which in my case means total lack of colour (*laughs*)! Most of my wardrobe is black and white, so everything matches, everything goes together. I also always bring either a can or a pot of baking soda, because you can do so much with it. You can wash your clothes in a pinch, it works as a deodorant if you run out, you can wash

your hair with it, and it's a great shoe deodoriser! So, that's a necessity!"

HAVE YOUR FANS EVER GIVEN YOU ANYTHING CREEPY?

"Oh, dude, totally! I think, like, 90 per cent of the things that I get are a little creepy. I think the creepiest one was when there was this seemingly nice couple, a kind of biker couple, you know, and they presented me with this gold wooden box. I

"A FAN GAVE ME A GOLDEN PACIFIER ON TOUR!"

LZZY HALE

opened it up, and there was a pacifier in there – you know, like a baby pacifier! It was also gold, on this little plush pillow, and it had this chain around it so I could wear it around my neck (*laughs*). They were like, 'Can you suck on it in a picture?' And I'm like, 'No offense, and I'm sure it's clean and everything, but I don't know where it's been, so I'm not sure if I want to stick that in my mouth!' But I kept it because it was such an odd thing – no-one's ever going to give me something like that again, so I still have it in my attic! I get a lot of letters, too. They range from adorable eight-year-olds' drawings and

amazing letters to, 'Oh my gosh, we have a stage-five crazy person that thinks they're dating me, and we've never met!'"

THAT'S PRETTY INTENSE! SO, WHAT'S NEXT FOR HALESTORM – HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE NEXT ALBUM YET?

"I know, it takes a second for me to start writing new songs again after we make a new record, 'cause that's kind of like a creative purging, and you kind of have to start collecting again. But I've started writing again – I don't know what it's gonna be for. It's almost better that way than me having to think, 'Well, this is gonna be on our record!'"

AND YOU'RE GUESTING ON THE NEW STONE SOUR COVERS EP...

"I am! I just did that the other day! They're like big brothers to me now. We talk a lot, and I was just inquiring, 'So, how's the cover EP coming?' and they're like, 'It's great, we have all this stuff that's been done, and, by the way, do you know that Stones song Gimme Shelter?' So, I'm doing the chick part in the Rolling Stones song Gimme Shelter, and I was stoked, 'cause I've always wanted to sing that song. I've never even sung it in karaoke! So, that was the first time! It's nice to do that stuff with friends."

DATES: O2 Academy Liverpool August 17, London Camden KOKO 18.

YOUR WEEK!

KERRANG! DAY AUGUST 12

BIRMINGHAM Don Broco (Temple)
BRIGHTON Trepalium (Green Door Store)
LEEDS The Decline (Brudenell Social Club)
LEICESTER Cabin Boy Jumped Ship, Saint [The] Sinner (Shed)
LONDON Thy Art Is Murder, Make Them Suffer (7pm and 9:30pm @ Barfly, Camden)
MANCHESTER Ceremony (Sound Control)
NOTTINGHAM Give (JT Soar)
SOUTHAMPTON Less Than Jake (Engine Rooms)
YORK British Lion, The Raven Age (Duchess)

THURSDAY AUGUST 13

BIRMINGHAM A Wilhelm Scream (O2 Academy3 Birmingham)
BLACKBURN British Lion, The Raven Age (King George's Hall Windsor Suite)
BRIGHTON The Decline (Hope & Ruin)
KENT Jamie Lenman (Hevy Fest @ Port Lympne Wild Animal Park)
MANCHESTER The Get Up Kids (Deaf Institute)
SWANSEA Elegies (Scene)
SWINDON Cabin Boy Jumped Ship, Saint [The] Sinner (Vic)

FRIDAY AUGUST 14

BASINGSTOKE Elegies (Sanctuary)
DONCASTER British Lion, The Raven Age (Diamond Live Lounge)
GLASGOW Don Broco (King Tut's)
HITCHIN Cabin Boy Jumped Ship, Saint [The] Sinner (Club 85)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: Lonely The Brave

Think you can serve the Cambridge rockers anything other than room-temperature water? Think again...

LONELY THE BRAVE

8 bath-size towels
16 hand-size towels
24 bottles of premium-quality lager
1 bottle of good-quality red wine
1 bottle of good-quality white wine
1 bottle of good-quality vodka
24 500ml bottles of still water (room temperature)
8 cans of Coca Cola
2 500ml bottles of Lucozade Orange
Ice for both chilling and drinks making
Selection of cooked meats and cheeses
Bread/rolls/baguettes, including a small selection of gluten free
Selection of salad stuff for sandwich making
Selection of fruit (bananas/apples/oranges etc.)
Butter
Mayo
Peanut butter
Selection of dips (hummus, salsa etc.)
Selection of crisps and tortilla chips
Tea and coffee making equipment
Fresh coffee
Decaffeinated coffee
Selection of tea bags
Fresh milk
Sugar
Runny honey
Ginger
1 x packet of Vocalzone throat pastilles



Don Broco's Rob Damiani developed a curious case of floating head

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/ EARS BUSY



FALL OUT BOY: THE STREAMED 10

KERRANG! TV – AUGUST 13, 12AM

It's two months 'til Pete and co return to the UK, which is, like, four years for dogs (and hardcore FOB fans). So, to tide you over, K! TV are playing their videos back to back!



NEWCASTLE

The Fall Of Troy, Rolo Tomassi (O2 Academy2 Newcastle)

NOTTINGHAM

Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes (Rough Trade)

NOTTINGHAM

The Get Up Kids (Studio 24)

TUESDAY AUGUST 18

BIRMINGHAM Nervosa (Asylum 2)



SKY ARTS SESSIONS:

TWIN ATLANTIC

SKY ARTS – ON DEMAND

Want to see Twin Atlantic play some delicious renditions of Heart & Soul and Brothers And Sisters? Then command the Sky remote immediately, and scroll down to Sky Arts. Make it Sky Arts HD and you'll be able to see the hairs up Sam McTrusty's nose. Probably.



NECK DEEP: WARPED TOUR UPDATE WEEKS 3 AND 5

YOUTUBE

In this latest instalment of the Wrexham pop-punks' video diary they go on a rollercoaster, get tattooed and frolic about in the sunshine... You watch this while we plot a way to bump them off so we can all take their places. Get practicing your pop-punk vocals!

COLCHESTER

British Lion, The Raven Age (Arts Centre)

LEEDS

A Wilhelm Scream, Teenage Bottlerocket (Key Club)

LONDON

Residual Kid (Barfly, Camden)

LONDON

Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes (Borderline)

LONDON

Halestorm (KOKO)

NOTTINGHAM

Alesana (Rock City)

STOKE

Fathoms, An Clergy (Tech Noir)

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: PLACEBO, MUSIC HALL, ABERDEEN, OCTOBER 16, 2000

THE XCERTS FRONTMAN HAD ONE AIM AT HIS FIRST SHOW: TO GET AS SWEATY AND GROSS AS POSSIBLE



MURRAY MACLEOD, THE XCERTS

"The first show I ever attended was Placebo at the Music Hall in Aberdeen, and I believe it was the first UK tour in support of their record Black Market Music.

"I went with three friends from school. We were around 13–14 years old at the time, and I distinctly remember the feeling that overcame me when I first entered the venue. The Music Hall is a gorgeous and grandiose place, and I was just in awe from the moment I walked through the doors. There was a lot of mystique around Placebo at the time, and I think that added to the excitement of the 'unknown'.

"Of course, we were in the pit from the word go! I think they opened with Black-Eyed, and it was one big sweaty pogo-fest, which obviously appealed to me, being a teenager

and wanting to get as gross as possible. They played a massive amount of hits – Nancy Boy, Teenage Angst, Pure Morning, Every You Every Me... Those songs are pretty timeless, and still to this day sound great.

"Watching a crowd of 2,000 people react the way they did was eye-opening, to say the least, and it undoubtedly had a huge impact on me. It was the start of a lifelong obsession with wanting to play music and connect with audiences on a larger scale."



PLACEBO



ST ALBANS

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ROU REYNOLDS, ENTER SHIKARI

HOW WAS THE MUSIC SCENE WHEN YOU WERE

GROWING UP IN ST ALBANS?

"We were incredibly lucky to have a really diverse and prolific local scene. Metal, hardcore, punk, ska and hip-hop would all ring out from local youth clubs, scout halls and pubs. Me, Chris [Batten, Shikari bassist] and some friends made our own promotions company and used to put on shows there, so I'm lucky to have so many exciting memories from those days."

WHAT ARE THE KEY VENUES IN THE TOWN, THEN?

"The Pioneer Youth Club

(1) was the place to be. Not only for its large skate park, but for its acoustically awful main room where all sorts of music has been put on for decades. This is a place our fathers occasionally went to as kids. It has real history, and just about every band from the wider area would have played it. It's still there, but literally every year they threaten to knock it down for flats, so I don't think it'll be there much longer."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO BANDS STARTING THERE?

"Play the surrounding areas if you can. There are so many towns with cool little venues that people actually still go to. Sometimes playing in the town you're from can feel strange and more nerve-racking. The people there know you and as soon as someone is on a stage there's a new dynamic and it can feel uncomfortable for both parties, especially if you haven't properly honed your craft yet."



The Pioneer; youth club gone wild

WHAT'S THE BEST GIG YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN ST ALBANS?

"**SikTh**. Every time they played **The Pioneer** was legendary; just constant strobe, soaring guitars, Mikee's [Goodman, SikTh singer] weird yelps – it was disorientating mayhem. **Gallows at The Horn** (2) back in the day before it all kicked off for them was great, too."

DO YOU HAVE ANY GREAT MEMORIES FROM PLAYING AT THE HORN?

"Yeah, we must have played there so many times! In its heyday, there was a free Monday night club, which was drum'n'bass, which is kinda where we all got into that side of things before venturing into London and finding house music. Every week there'd be punk bands playing – then at the weekend you'd have stuff like The Beetles spelled with a double-'e' (laughs), all that cover band nonsense!"

ANY OTHER LOCAL VENUES YOU'VE PLAYED?

"We played the **Alban Arena** (3), which isn't an arena, just a panto venue (laughs). That was one the police sent all their plain-clothes people to. They're always very suspicious of anything – the council, that is – they just throw it in with any pile of youth culture. We also used to break in and play DJ sets at this disused milk dairy down my road, which was a lot of fun!"



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BOOKING NOW

AGAINST THE CURRENT

London O2 Academy Islington October 7, Glasgow King Tuts 8, Birmingham Asylum 9, Manchester Club Academy 10, Southampton Joiners 11, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 12.

ALL TIME LOW

Edinburgh Corn Exchange August 25. Support: Neck Deep.

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

O2 Academy Leicester October 20, O2 Academy Newcastle 21, Lincoln Engine Shed 22, O2 Academy Sheffield 27, Manchester Ritz 28. Support: Memphis May Fire, August Burns Red, In Hearts Wake.

BLACKBERRY SMOKE

O2 Academy Birmingham November 3, O2 Academy Sheffield 4, O2 Academy Newcastle 5, Manchester Academy 6, London Kentish Town Forum 8.

BLACK STONE CHERRY

Cardiff Motorpoint Arena January 28, 2016, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 29, Liverpool Echo Arena 30, Glasgow SSE Hydro February 1, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 2, London SSE Arena Wembley 4, Leeds First Direct Arena 4, Manchester Arena 6. Support: Shinedown, Halestorm, Highly Suspect.

BLITZ KIDS

Manchester Academy III October 9, London Tufnell Park Dome 10.

BRAND NEW

Manchester Albert Hall September 10, London Alexandra Palace 11, O2 Academy Sheffield 19, Middlesbrough Empire 20, Edinburgh Usher Hall 21, Dublin Vicar Street 22.

BRITISH LION

York Duchess August 12, Blackburn King George's Hall Windsor Suite 13, Doncaster Diamond Live Lounge 14, Grimsby Yardbirds 15, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 16, Colchester Arts Centre 18, O2 Academy 2 Oxford 20, Plymouth Hub 21, Southampton 1865 22, Poole Mr Kyps 23, Norwich Waterfront 24, London O2 Islington Academy 26. Support: The Raven Age.

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE

Belfast Ulster Hall September 28, Dublin Olympia 29, O2 Academy Bournemouth October 1, Reading Hexagon 2, Guildford G Live 3, Aylesbury Theatre 5, Stoke Victoria Hall 6, Lincoln Engine Shed 7, York Barbican 9, Aberdeen Music Hall 10, Dunfermline Alhambra 11, Middlesbrough Empire 13, Carlisle Sands 14, O2 Academy Leicester 16, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 17, Folkestone Cliff Hall 18, Swansea Brangwyn Hall 20, O2 Guildhall Southampton 21, Ipswich Regent Corn Exchange 22.

BUTSERFEST

Line-up: Don Broco, Funeral For A Friend, Hacktivist, The Qemists, The Xcerts, The One Hundred, Our Hollow Our Home, Boston Manor, Dirt, Cardinal Bay, Walking Angel, The Lounge Kittens, Petersfield Queen Elizabeth Country Park September 12.

CANCER BATS

Kingston Fighting Cocks August 26, London 100 Club August 27. Support: Krokodil.

CITY AND COLOUR

Brighton Dome February 18, 2016, Cardiff Great Hall 19, Manchester Albert Hall 20, Belfast Mandela Hall 23, O2 Academy Glasgow 24, London Troxy 26 – 27.

CLUTCH

Dublin Olympia Theatre November 20, Belfast Limelight 21, O2 Academy Glasgow 23, Nottingham Rock City 24, O2 Academy Bristol 25, Manchester Ritz December 10, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 11, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 12.

CRADLE OF FILTH

Nottingham Rock City October 16, Bristol Motion 17, Norwich Waterfront 18, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 20, Glasgow Garage 21, Manchester Academy II 22, London Camden KOKO 23.

DAMNATION FESTIVAL

Line-up: At The Gates, Leeds University Union November 7.

THE DARKNESS

Cambridge Corn Exchange December 1, Nottingham Rock City 2, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, O2 Academy Glasgow 5, O2 Academy Leeds 9, Manchester Academy 10, O2 Academy Birmingham 11, O2 Academy Bristol 13, O2 Guildhall Southampton 14, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 15, O2 Academy Bournemouth 17, O2 Academy Oxford 19, London Camden Roundhouse 20.

DEF LEPPARD / WHITESNAKE

Dublin 3Arena December 6, Belfast Odyssey 7, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 9, Glasgow SSE Hydro 10, Birmingham Genting Arena 12, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 13, Manchester Arena 15, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 16, London SSE Arena Wembley 18, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 19. Support: Black Star Riders.

DEFTONES

London SSE Arena Wembley November 21. Support: Architects.

DELAIN

Bristol Marble Factory October 22, Birmingham Institute Library 23, Manchester Academy II 24, London O2 Academy Islington 25. Support: Anneke van Giersbergen, The Gentle Storm.

DON BROCO

Birmingham Temple August 12, Glasgow King Tuts 14, London O2 Academy Brixton December 13.

ENTER SHIKARI

O2 Academy Glasgow February 18, 2016, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 19, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 20, Bournemouth BIC 22, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 23, Manchester Victoria Warehouse 25, London Alexandra Palace 27. Support: The Wonder Years.

EVERY TIME I DIE

Southampton Talking Heads November 6, Plymouth Underground 7, Bristol Fleece 8, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 9, Manchester Sound Control 11, Glasgow King Tuts 12, Aberdeen Tunnels 13, Newcastle Riverside 14, Sheffield Corporation 15, Birmingham Asylum 17, London Tufnell Park Dome 18, London Borderline 19, London Camden Underworld 20. Support: Superheaven, Muck.

THE FALL OF TROY

O2 Academy 2, Liverpool August 16, O2 Academy 2 Newcastle 17, Edinburgh Studio 24 18, London Camden Electric Ballroom 19, Manchester Gorilla 20, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 22. Support: Rolo Tomassi.

FALL OUT BOY

Leeds First Direct Arena October 3, Aberdeen AECC GE Oil & Gas Arena 4, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Arena 9, Bournemouth International Centre 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 11 – 12.

FEAR FACTORY

Bristol Motion December 7, Manchester Ritz 9, Dublin Academy 10, Belfast Limelight 11, Glasgow Garage 12, London Kentish Town Forum 13.

FIGHTSTAR

London Troxy October 17, Southampton University 18, Exeter Lemon Grove 19, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 21, Norwich Waterfront 22, Manchester Ritz 24, Newcastle Northumbria Uni 25, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 27, Aberdeen Garage 28.

FOO FIGHTERS

Milton Keynes Bowl September 5 – 6, Edinburgh BT Murrayfield Stadium 8. Support: Iggy Pop (Milton Keynes), Royal Blood (Edinburgh).

FOZZY

Reading Sub89 November 24, Tunbridge Wells Forum 25, London O2 Academy Islington 26, Manchester Sound Control 27, Chester Live Rooms 28, Birmingham Rainbow December 12, Cambridge Junction 2, Newcastle Riverside 3, Sheffield Corporation 5, Trecco Bay Planet, Rockstock 6. Support: Sumo Cyco.

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

London Borderline August 18, Birmingham Rainbow Court Yard October 20, Sheffield Leadmill 21, Newcastle Cluny 22, Glasgow Cathouse 23, Manchester Star & Garter 24, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 27, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 28.

FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS

Llandudno Venue Cymru November 5, O2 Guildhall Southwark 8, Falmouth Princess Pavilion 9, Glasgow Barrowland 13, Newcastle Cluny 14, Nottingham Rock City 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 18, O2 Academy Sheffield 19, Bristol Colston Hall 21, Manchester Academy 23, London Alexandra Palace 26.

THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM

London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire August 29. Support: Against Me!

GHOSTFEST

Line-up: Hatebreed, Despised Icon, Turnstile, Rise Of The Northstar, Nasty, Astro Boy, Make Them Suffer, Slaughter To Prevail, Venom Prison, Emmure, Oceano, Angel Dust, Oathbreaker, Desolated, Broken Teeth,

Casey Born Of Osiris, Martyr Defiled, The Eyes Of A Traitor, Seafoal, Jonny Craig, Continents, Heart Of A Coward, Stray From The Path, Malevolence, Blood Youth, Leeds University September 5, Bristol Motion 6.

GNRWOLVES

Birmingham Rainbow Warehouse December 9, Manchester Sound Control 10, Leeds Key Club 11, Glasgow Audio 12, Sheffield Local Authority 13, Liverpool District 14, Nottingham Bodega 15, Bristol Exchange 16, Bournemouth Sound Circus 17, London Camden Underworld 18. Support: Spraynard, Such Gold.

HALESTORM

O2 Academy Liverpool August 17, London Camden KOKO 18.

HATEBREED

Reading Sub 89 September 4.

HEYV FESTIVAL

Line-up: Coheed And Cambria, Thrice, The Dillinger Escape Plan, Monuments, Vales, Grader, Up River, OHMMS, Collisions, Baby Godzilla, Black Tusk, The Colour Line, Continents, Creeper, Fathoms, Fort Hope, The Get Up Kids, Hacktivist, Touché Amoré, Vrathis, The Fall Of Troy, Judge, Ignite, A Wilhelm Scream, Teenage Bottlerocket, Arcane Roots, Crooks, Broken Teeth, Hang The Bastard, Black Peaks, Blood Youth, Trash Boat, Youth Man, Press To Meco, Protest The Hero, As It Is, Betraying The Martyrs, Break Even, Chon, Endless Heights, God Damn, Landscapes, Milk Teeth, Protest The Hero, Stick To Your Guns, Sweet Jesus, Waster, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park August 14–15.

INME

Manchester Sound Control September 14, Glasgow Classic Grand 15, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 16, Birmingham Warehouse 17, London O2 Academy Islington 18.

JIM ADKINS

Birmingham Glee Club September 2, Glasgow Cottiers Theatre 3, Manchester Royal Northern College Of Music 4, London Union Chapel 5.

LESS THAN JAKE

Southampton Engine Rooms August 12, Winchester Boomtown Fair 14.

LIMP BIZKIT

London O2 Academy Brixton August 27.

MACMILLANFEST 2015

Line-up: Fearless Vampire Killers, Evil Scarecrow, The One Hundred and loads more! Nottingham various venues September 5.

MALLORY KNOX

Rugby Village September 24. Support: We Are The Ocean, Go Primitive, O2 Academy Glasgow September 28, Manchester Ritz 29, Cambridge Junction 30, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall October 2, Middlesbrough Empire 3, Cardiff Y Plas 4, Exeter Lemon Grove 6, Nottingham Rock Circus 7, Norwich UEA 8, London Camden Roundhouse 9. Support: Set It Off, The Xcerts.

MARILYN MANSON

London Eventim Apollo November 19, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 21, O2 Academy Glasgow 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 23. Support: Krokodil.

MEGADETH / LAMB OF GOD

Glasgow Braehead Arena November 11, O2 Apollo Manchester 12, London SSE Arena Wembley 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15. Support: Children Of Bodom, Sylosis.

MOOSE BLOOD

Tunbridge Wells Forum August 27, Chester Live Rooms September 1, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 2, Bournemouth Sound Circus 4, Plymouth Underground 5, Swansea Scene 6, Coventry Kasbah 7, Carlisle Brickyard 8. Support: Creeper.

MÖTLEY CRÜE

Newcastle Metro Radio Arena November 2, Manchester Arena 3, Birmingham Genting Arena 4, London SSE Arena Wembley 6. Support: Alice Cooper.

NEW FOUND GLORY

London O2 Academy Islington August 24.

NICKELBACK

Sheffield Motorpoint Arena November 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 14, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 16, Manchester Arena 17, Liverpool Echo Arena 19, Birmingham Genting Arena 21, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 22, London SSE Arena Wembley 24. Support: Monster Truck.

NIGHTWISH

London SSE Arena Wembley December 19. Support: Arch Enemy, Amorphis.

NORTHLANE

Bristol Fleece October 4, Birmingham Asylum 5.



MOTIONLESS IN WHITE

Belfast Mandela Hall November 23, Dublin Academy 24, Manchester Club Academy 26, Leeds University Union 27, Glasgow Garage 28, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 29, Birmingham Asylum December 1, Bristol Fleece 2, Southampton 1865 3, London Camden Underworld 4 and 6.

JUST ANNOUNCED

AGNOSTIC FRONT

Bristol Marble Factory October 1, London Camden Underworld 3. Support: Old Firm Casuals.

DEAFHEAVEN

London Scala August 24. Support: Marriages.

DINOSAUR PILE-UP

Birmingham Rainbow November 2, Newcastle Think Tank 3, Glasgow King Tuts 4, Manchester Ruby Lounge 6, Leeds Key Club 7, Nottingham Bodega 8, Norwich Waterfront 9, London Tufnell Park Dome 11, Bristol Exchange 12, Brighton Beach 13.

OPETH

London Palladium October 18.

PALM READER

Basingstoke Sanctuary September 1, Plymouth Exile 2, Derby Victoria Inn 3, Glasgow Ivory Blacks 4, Sheffield Riverside 5, Swansea Lemon Factory 6, London Surya 8.

SABATON

Norwich UEA February 26, 2016, Manchester Academy 27, O2 Academy Birmingham 28, O2 Guildhall Southampton 29, Aberdeen Music Hall March 2, Glasgow Barrowland 3, Belfast Limehouse 4, Dublin Vicar Street 6, Cardiff Tramshed 7, Bristol Motion 8. Support: Alestorm, Bloodbound.

SIKTH

Glasgow Classic Grand December 5, Manchester Academy II 6, Bristol Marble Factory 10, O2 Academy 2 Birmingham 11, London Kentish Town Forum 12.

SKINRED

O2 Guildhall Southampton November 4, Norwich UEA 5, Nottingham Rock City 6, Manchester Academy 7, O2 Academy Glasgow 10, Leeds Stylus 11, O2 Academy Bristol 12, Birmingham Institute 13, London O2 Academy Brixton 14. Support: Crossfaith, (hed)p.e., Yashin.

SLAYER

Newport Centre November 21, Plymouth Pavilions 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 24, O2 Academy Glasgow 25, O2 Academy Birmingham 27, O2 Academy Leeds 28, London O2 Academy Brixton 30. Support: Anthrax, Kvelertak.

STATE CHAMPS

Belfast QUB Students' Union September 15, Dublin Academy II 6, O2 Academy 2 Liverpool 17, Birmingham Asylum 18, O2 Academy 2 Newcastle 19, Glasgow King Tuts 21, Leeds Stylus 22, Manchester Sound Control 23, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 24, London O2 Academy Islington 25, Southampton 26, Kingston Hippodrome October 3. Support: Knuckle Puck, ROAM.

THE STORY SO FAR

Cardiff Y Plas December 1, Southampton 1865 2, Exeter Lemon Grove 3, London Camden KOKO 4, Norwich Epic 5, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 7, Birmingham Asylum 8, Manchester Academy II 9, Glasgow Garage 10, Newcastle Riverside 11, Leeds Stylus 12.

THERAPY?

London Camden Electric Ballroom December 19. Support: Black Spiders.

THE TREATMENT

London Camden Barfly September 23.

TWENTY ONE PILOTS

O2 ABC Glasgow November 4, Manchester Ritz 5, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 6, O2 Academy Oxford 7, Birmingham Institute 9, London O2 Academy Brixton February 25, 2016.

VANS WARPED TOUR UK

Line-up: Asking Alexandria, Black Veil Brides, Young Guns, Reel Big Fish, Metro Station, Memphis May Fire, Anti-Flag, August Burns Red, Attila, The Word Alive, Ghost Town, Rob Lynch, Fearless Vampire Killers, Forever Came Calling, The Rocket Summer, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Trophy Eyes, ROAM, The One Hundred, In Hearts Wake, John Coffey, Twin Wild, Tigress, Boy Bumps Ship, Creeper, Allusondrugs, London Alexandra Palace October 18.

WE ARE THE OCEAN

Birmingham Asylum November 9, Cardiff Globe 10, Bristol Fleece 11, Norwich Waterfront Studio 12, Leeds Mine 13, Glasgow King Tuts 15, O2 Academy Newcastle 16, Manchester Sound Control 17, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 18, London O2 Academy Islington 20.

WEDNESDAY 13

London Highbury Garage October 30–31.

THE XCERTS

London Camden Dingwalls August 26. Support: Only Rivals.

PHOTO: ANDY GALLAGHER

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THE ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

CRILLY ASHESTOANGELS

WHEN HE'S NOT HITTING PEOPLE WITH HIS MIC, THE NEW GRAVE KING IS TERRORISING TRAVELODGES...



ON ROCK 'N' ROLL...
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN
ASKED TO LEAVE A HOTEL
PREMATURELY?

"Yep, I've been thrown out of more than one, and it tends to be Travelodges around Bristol when it happens. We have a couple of really good friends we've met through the band, and when they come down for shows they stay with us. The management don't like you running up and down the corridors screaming all night... We got invoiced for a 'broken' net curtain once, which isn't very rock'n'roll."

WHAT'S THE
BIGGEST BAR
TAB YOU'VE
EVER RUN UP?

"Morocco tends to be really cheap, and I was drinking in a bar there with these guys who turned out to be actual gangsters, and I was buying drinks and throwing them on the tab. It came time to pay and it turned out the drinks were about £15 each, and that was a few hundred quid right there! But hey, I got to make friends with gangsters!"



HAVE YOU EVER HIT ANYONE WITH
YOUR MICROPHONE ONSTAGE?

"Yeah, myself, many times! I've hit a couple of people in the audience, but the worst was when I got Adam [guitar] during his second show. I got him in the finger and it was at a somewhat hilarious angle for quite a while. It was okay, he wasn't very good at playing guitar at the time anyway!"

We hear fingers aren't important to guitar players anyway, Crilly. Keep swinging that mic

ON YOUR MUSIC...
WHAT DATE WAS WITH TAPE
AND NEEDLES RELEASED?

"Hmmm... we played a show in Bristol a couple of days before... I'm going to say it was September 1, 2013. June 24? Gah, not even close!"

You wanna get a calendar put up in your coffin, or wherever you sleep

YOU WORKED WITH WILLIAM
CONTROL ON YOUR
HORRORCULT ALBUM
- WHAT YEAR DID HIS
DEBUT ALBUM, HATE
CULTURE, COME OUT?

"Aiden's Nightmare Anatomy came out in 2005... Hate Culture came out around the time of Blaqk Audio... Which was... I think it was 2008? Yes!"

*Somebody's been
swotting up on their
Encyclopaedia Britannica:
New Grave Edition*

WHAT STYLE OF
FOOTWEAR IS
YOUR BASSIST
NICO WEARING IN
THE RUN VIDEO?

"Big white Nikes! Once you've seen the shot of him running through the woods trying not to touch the floor, it burns into your memory, and you never

**"WE GOT BILLED
FOR A BROKEN
NET CURTAIN!"**

CRILLY



forget that footwear!"
Guy's gotta keep his creps
fresh. But minus points for
letting someone in your
band wear white shoes in
the first place

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

YOU MEET A FELLOW CLAIMING TO BE YOUR
GUARDIAN ANGEL - WHAT DO YOU DO?

"That would be really bad, because that would mean that all of the stuff I've chosen not to believe, and that terrified me so much as a child, is *real*. It would be a double-edged sword... it would mean I have a guardian angel, but his simple existence would be doing the absolute opposite of protecting me because I'd freak out and lose my mind! But hey, maybe we'd get along and have fun together."

AS A BIG BATMAN FAN YOU SOMEHOW
INHERIT THE BATMOBILE - DO YOU START
FIGHTING CRIME OR USE IT TO LOOK COOL?

"Assuming it's the Batmobile from the Tim Burton films - which, to me, is the definitive version - it probably wouldn't be massively practical. I live on an estate, which has plenty of low-level crime, but I think Bat-Crilly would do more harm than good, so I think I'd ride around in it all day being a flash prick instead. Then, at night, maybe I could take some law classes and become a solicitor and fight crime that way?"

YOU LEARN THAT EYELINER CAN ONLY
BE MADE FROM DEAD PUPPIES - DO YOU
STILL WEAR IT?

"Definitely not. I'd have to make my own out of Sharpies or something. I try to make sure as few things as possible die just so I can live my life. My cats might be into that, though... they're not big fans of dogs, so that little fact might mean they start wearing it, cackling at the local puppies and striking fear into their hearts!"

Note to self: don't run into Crilly's evil cats down a dark alleyway

THE SPIRITUAL
HEADMELTER...

IF YOU DIE IN A DREAM, DO YOU DIE
IN REAL LIFE?

"No, because I've died in dreams before! I have more dreams where I can fly, though, and I've been working really hard to bring that into my daily life, but I think I lack the confidence so far..."

Er, Crilly, there's something we need to tell you...

THE VERDICT **SCORE**
HERE'S A DECENT SCORE ON
THE CONDITION YOU DON'T TRIP
OUR CURTAINS DOWN **71%**

THE LEADERBOARD

1	LEMMY MOTÖRHEAD	99%
1	OZZY OSBOURNE BLACK SABBATH	99%
1	ROB HALFORD JUDAS PRIEST	99%
4	MATT SKIBA ALKALINE TRIO	98%
5	ICE-T BODY COUNT	97%
6	MATT SORUM	97%
7	GENE SIMMONS KISS	96%
8	ALICE COOPER	95%
9	JOE ELLIOTT DEF LEPPARD	95%
10	CRILLY ASHESTOANGELS	71%

71	BOB MOULD HÜSKER DÜ/SUGAR	64%
72	AUSTIN CARLILE OF MICE & MEN	61%
73	ALEX GASKARTH ALL TIME LOW	55%

Frank Carter

& THE RATTLESNAKES



THE DEBUT ALBUM
'BLOSSOM' OUT 14TH AUGUST

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DEATH
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